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EL NOPALITO'S FISH TACO.
Photo by Eve Weston

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OPINION

letters

FROM MISOGYNY TO A

PLAQUE FOR FROG

The Misogyny of it All

I was disgusted to learn of the waste of a quarter-million dollars in taxpayer money incurred by Lane County “lead-ers,” namely commissioners David Love-all and Pat Farr, in settling a 2024 lawsuit related to their misogyny toward a female county counsel.

However, the news report fell far short of describing the full cost. A public records request reveals that the county spent an additional \$149,000 for outside attorneys’ fees in investigating the suit and crafting the settlement. And how did those attor-neys investigate? They had to depose employees in the investigation. Hundreds of hours were diverted off the critical county staff priorities of public safety, health and human services, public works, elections and land use planning.

Note also that the same Lane County “leaders” (Farr and Loveall, with Ryan Ceniga’s aid) then — apparently finding nothing problematic with misogyny and the waste of county staff time and taxpayer money — elected Commissioner Loveall chair of the board for 2025.

Reading reports published by *Oregon-Live*, *Lookout Local* and *The Register-Guard*, and watching recorded sessions of public county board meetings, clearly the settled claim represents only the tip of a toxic iceberg of rude, unprofessional behaviors by these county elected officials. It is sad to imagine how toxic the workplace has become for female staff at Lane County due to the misogyny of some of our elected leaders. And the direct cost to taxpayers is clearly approaching \$500,000 at this point,

much more than what has been previously reported. The public has a right to know.
Dawn Lesley
Eugene

It Could Have Been Stopped

“Unstoppable Juggernaut” (*EW*, 9/11) suggests the city could not have prevented construction of Amazon’s new mega ware-house on farmland next to Eugene airport.

Actually, the city took action to facili-tate this. The city rezoned this farmland to pave it over.

When Jim Torrey, a Republican, was mayor, there was interest at the council to follow the lead of Hood River and dozens of other U.S. cities that wrote laws restricting super sized big box businesses. In 2002, the Oregon Supreme Court ratified Hood River’s law. Unfortunately, none of the three Democratic mayors — Kitty Piercy, Lucy Vinis and now Kaarin Knudsen — who followed Torrey were interested. Maybe if Eugene still had a Republican mayor liberals might have paid attention.

Three years ago, the city and county enacted “urban reserves” to pave more farmland all the way to Junction City and toward Veneta — with minimal public notice or objection.

“Sustain-a-bull” rhetoric lulls the public to sleep, pretending we’re addressing ecological crises when we’re not. Gentrifi-cation downtown doesn’t stop the paving of farmland. The approval of massive widen-ing of the Beltline Highway was ignored by local climate groups. Nice values state-ments didn’t stop the city from installing Flock surveillance cameras.

Mark Robinowitz
Eugene

A Plaque for Frog

After losing his court case in a Lane County district courtroom to the city of Eugene for selling his joke books on the corner of 13th Avenue and Kincaid Street without a license, Frog (David Miller) was fined \$500.

Because Frog sold the “Worlds Funni-est Joke Books,” his merchandise did not conform to the city ordinance, which only

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

UGH, HERE WE ARE IN ANOTHER ONE OF THESE STUPID TOM TOMORROW CARTOONS!

I SUPPOSE HE'S GOING TO TRY TO MAKE US LOOK LIKE FASCISTS AGAIN!

IT'S VERY UNFAIR, LIKE NOBODY'S EVER SEEN BEFORE!

WHAT'S SO "FASCIST" ABOUT A VICE PRESIDENT ENCOURAGING A MASS DOXXING CAMPAIGN AGAINST RANDOS ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

WE SIMPLY WANT TO USE THE FULL FORCE OF GOVERNMENT TO ANNIHILATE THE LEFT--AS ONE DOES IN A VIBRANT DEMOCRACY!

WE'RE ALSO CRUSHING UNIVER-SITIES AND BENDING CORPORA-TIONS TO OUR WILL--JUST AS THE FOUNDING FATHERS INTENDED!

I'M SUING THE NEW YORK TIMES FOR \$15 BILLION, FOR BEING MEAN TO ME!

A VERY PRESIDENTIAL THING TO DO!

WE GOT JIMMY KIMMEL PULLED OFF THE AIR FOR HIS REMARKS ABOUT CHARLIE KIRK--NOT TO MENTION HIS DISRESPECTFUL JOKES ABOUT YOU, EXALTED ONE!

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AND OF COURSE, WE'RE SENDING ICE AND THE NATIONAL GUARD INTO EVEN MORE AMERICAN CITIES!

NOTHING EMPHASIZES OUR COMMITMENT TO THE CON-STITUTION LIKE A DOMESTIC MILITARY OCCUPATION!

MEANWHILE UGH, WE'RE IN ANOTHER ONE OF THESE STUPID TOM TOMORROW CARTOONS! I SUPPOSE HE'S GOING TO MAKE US LOOK INEFFECTUAL AGAIN!

WHAT'S SO "INEFFECTUAL" ABOUT USING OUR BUDGET LEVERAGE TO POLITELY REQUEST A SENSIBLE BIPAR-TISAN COMPROMISE?

SOME PEOPLE ARE NEVER HAPPY!

allowed for balloons, food, beverages and flowers.

Rebecca Davis, Frog's attorney working on a pro-bono basis, appealed the case to the Oregon Court of Appeals in Salem.

The chief judge in that trial wrote that the Eugene ordinance violated Article 1, Section 8, of the Oregon State Constitution.

Eugene appealed that decision to the Oregon State Supreme Court. After four years of citations, appeals and litigation, the case was finally decided — the Supreme Court upheld the appellate court's decision.

Frog became a local legend.

Frog passed away on Nov. 2, 2024, the last day of the year for Eugene's outdoor Saturday Market. I don't normally go to funerals — too depressing. But Frog's funeral ended in tears of laughter.

At the funeral, I was informed of a group putting together a plaque commemorating Frog's life. A photograph of the plaque was sent to me yesterday. It is the hope of the plaque's makers that it can be placed somewhere near the corner of 13th and Kincaid streets. I support putting the plaque there, too. Maybe it could go on one of the building's support columns in front

of the University of Oregon book store.

Joe Blakely
Eugene

Count Me In

As a former tenant of one of David Loveall's buildings in Springfield, I have experienced many interactions with him over the five years we were associated (EW Slant, 9/18).

In my experience, Loveall is the type of individual that would use his position of power in insulting and intimidating ways. As an elected county commissioner, Loveall's reported behavior toward staff

and others are unacceptable. Name calling and religious invocations have no place in politics. To whoever decides to run against Loveall in the upcoming 2026 election, I would love to work on your campaign!

Marilou Heriot
Eugene



Local & Vocal

Viewpoint by Adrienne Mitchell

LEADING FOR OUR STUDENTS, FOR OUR DEMOCRACY

The LCC faculty union president responds

On Sept. 11, a guest viewpoint in *Eugene Weekly* noted, "LCC stands at an inflection point." I couldn't agree with that sentiment more — but not for the reasons laid out.

The truth is that our community's college has become a testing ground for big money, special interests and out-of-state donors that spent at unprecedented levels in an attempt to buy our Board of Education elections to push an agenda that turns back the clock on values of social responsibility we know our community still holds dear.

FINANCIAL DECISIONS THAT PUT STUDENTS LAST

After the pandemic, the Lane Community College budget has stabilized due to strong enrollment growth of 26-plus percent over the past three years and growing reserves, which have increased by \$1 million over the past two years while revenue exceeded expenses, not the other way around.

Despite this, LCC chose to cut \$675,000 in unspecified programs and services from its 2026 budget while simultaneously increasing management staffing

levels by 10 percent the same year, and after recently wasting nearly \$1 million on outside attorneys, including hiring a lawyer not admitted to the Oregon State Bar. All this while judges found LCC violated state law with illegal union busting, including surveilling union emails and illegal threats against LCC faculty for exercising their rights to free speech.

At the same time, LCC is making the case for even more cuts despite growing reserves. What's more — only 33.5 percent of LCC spending went to instruction and only 11 percent to student services, according to the most recent fiscal audit.

Let's get real: These choices do not support the mission of our community's college.

BREAKING PROMISES TO THE PUBLIC

In May, the LCC administration quietly decided not to offer the licensed practical nurse program, which has long been an urgently needed lifeline for our community's health care needs. This happened without notice to the public, students who had applied, or the faculty who were preparing to orient new students the very next week.

Further, this decision was made without any vote of the board, without an opportunity for public comment before the program was put on hiatus — in direct violation of longstanding LCC board policy and documented history of voting on program suspensions.

Similarly, the LCC administration effec-

tively dismantled the DEI office in 2023, leaving it without any staffing for more than two years and counting, without a board vote at public meetings.

This contravenes the public interest and Oregon's sunshine law.

The people of Lane County will lose our voice in our community's college if the administration continues to remove the authority of the Board of Education and shut the public out.

THE COMMON GOOD IS ON THE LINE

Right now hundreds of LCC faculty are in negotiations for our next union contract. We are the instructors, counselors, librarians, mental health clinicians, coaches and instructional experts. We make it our life's work to fulfill the college mission of transforming lives through learning. Our goal is to create optimal learning conditions for our students.

We're asking for enough counselors and tutors to support students; a safe, healthy campus where we'll be secure in the event of a lockdown.

We're asking for the basic tools faculty need to teach — equal pay for equal work and reasonable workloads with no mandatory overloads.

In contrast, the LCC Administration has proposed to:

- Remove the obligation to provide students access to the campus health clinic;
- Allow classes to increase to 150 percent of current sizes;

- Provide no guarantee of student services levels or improved safety; and
- No longer protect part-time faculty from removal for exercising rights to nondiscrimination, privacy, free expression of divergent viewpoints, academic freedom, union activity and participation in civic life free from institutional censorship.

PROTECTING OUR DEMOCRACY

A quintessential purpose of higher education is to encourage vibrant discussion, celebrate divergent viewpoints and provide space for debate and deep learning where free expression forms the very bedrock for our broader democracy.

Faculty remain unwavering in our commitment to work collaboratively with our campus partners and community allies to create the conditions where we can do our best work in service of students — a campus where the administration engages in transparent, inclusive decision making characterized by ethics and integrity; seeks settlement over disputes; takes a reasonable approach to contract negotiations; amply funds the college mission, and, importantly in an ever more fragile democracy, welcomes the free exchange of ideas.

Public institutions belong to the public. It's time we come together as a community to ensure the public still has a say.

Adrienne Mitchell has taught at LCC for 25 years and proudly serves as the president of LCCEA, representing hundreds of faculty members at Lane Community College.

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THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JANA RYGAS

JUNE 2, 1954 - MARCH 27, 2025

Political strategist and organizer involved in the election of Eugene’s last three mayors passed away March 27

BY SAVANNAH BROWN

“In campaigns, there’s a lot of pressure to be perfect all the time,” former Eugene mayor Kitty Piercy says. But in her 2004 campaign, Piercy says that Jana Rygas helped her “to joke and make fun of things.” She says that laughing at yourself “in a campaign and in life makes it easier.”

Rygas was an active political organizer and strategist who contributed to civics in Eugene for decades. She worked on the successful campaigns of three Eugene mayors, Piercy, Kaarin Knudson and Lucy Vinis, as well as other politicians, while also fighting for labor rights and helping build worker’s unions. She died March 27 at 70-years-old.

Rygas was born in Indiana on June 2, 1954. After graduating high school as valedictorian and getting her doctorate of veterinary science, she moved to Eugene in 1983. At the time, “she was a veterinarian who didn’t like being a veterinarian,” her friend David Funk says. “So she shifted to learning about politics. And so many of us relied on her for advice.”

Funk met Rygas in 2004, when she approached Piercy asking to be her campaign manager in her race for mayor. Piercy “was considered the underdog,” Funk says, “So we

were all under pressure at that point, and there were a lot of political maneuverings going on on the other side.” He continues, “The other side had more money than we did.”

Piercy says that Rygas was a very rational thinker and “analyzed the campaign and took it apart and put it back together.” She says Rygas had her “knocking on every door,” speaking with women’s rights and environmentalist groups and finding her audience. It eventually led to her success against current legislator, then city councilor, Nancy Nathanson.

“Everybody who worked with her learned to like her and admire her for her skills, and she became a very desirable person to engage in political campaigns after that,” Funk says of Rygas.

Former Mayor Vinis and Rep. Val Hoyle both say they never would have thought to be politicians until Rygas pushed them to run.

“I always thought I would be the worker to help people get elected,” Hoyle says. She says she had never considered running because she came from a working class background. Hoyle says that it was Rygas who taught her, “because you come from a different place, that you’re bringing a different voice.”

“She was observant about people,” Vinis says. “She paid attention to them. She was thoughtful about the gifts they had, the talents they had, what they would bring to bear. And she had this way of weaving people together to make things happen.” She says that this translated smoothly to politics by “recognizing where people had a skill set, or where people would fit well in a particular role.”

For their entire friendship, Vinis says that Rygas mentored her, and had the last eyes on every speech she ever made. “I would not have a political life if it wasn’t for Jana,” Vinis says.

Rygas served on many committees, campaigns and workers unions throughout her life, such as the American Federation of Teachers, the Oregon Nurses Association, the American Association of University Professors and the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation. She also assisted with many projects such as passing an \$83 million bond with Lane Community College and working to remove cattle from sensitive Oregon desert lands.

According to her younger brother, Joe Rygas, their parents were both members of the Communist Party

from the 1930s until the 1950s, when their father, Stanley Rygas, was investigated by the FBI because of his beliefs. Stanley was also a member of the United Steelworkers union for 38 years.

“We were surrounded with liberal politics and being on the side of the working man,” Joe says, “and I think she embraced those beliefs throughout her life.”

Funk, who worked consistently with Jana Rygas for close to 20 years, says, “She was always passionate about the underdog.” He says that Rygas often gave advice to politicians that “It’s a temptation to look at the big dollars that come in and forget that the people who can’t afford to give you political donations are the ones that really need you a lot.”

Piercy says that Rygas would never work for an effort that did not prioritize women’s rights, workers rights or didn’t fit with her “strong sense of justice.”

Though many of her campaigns were successful, they never came without stress and difficulty. Those who worked with her say that though she was very analytical, “She would always come in with a joke or something to break the mood,” Funk says. “She knew it was serious what we were doing, but not life threatening.”

As a result, Game Nights were born. Almost every month for 10 years, she invited politicians and other civic leaders to her house for an evening of potlucks, board games and talking about politics. “She just liked to have fun, and she instituted us having Halloween game nights where we were dressed up,” Funk says. This translated to her political projects as well. Funk recalls an instance where Rygas dressed up as a cow and danced onstage to “dramatize” the negative effects bovines have on waterways.

“She was a friend, advisor, confidant, strategist and a person I could call and cry to and laugh with,” Hoyle says. “I really miss being able to have her at the other end of the phone.”

Rygas is preceded in death by her parents, Stanley and Lucille, her two sisters, Lida and Nasha, and her beloved dog Magilla. She is survived by her brother Joe and her son Teal Greyhavens.

Those who would like to make a donation in her name can honor her lifelong support of unions and labor causes.



JANA RYGAS
Photo courtesy of Teal Greyhavens

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BY EW EDITORIAL STAFF

>> **Voting in Best of Eugene (which encompasses all of Lane County and our reader-ship areas) wraps up Sept.**

29. Remember: 1. This is a readers poll so it's *you* who vote and decide (*EW* staff gets our own staff picks issue the next week!) 2. There's no shame in a good campaign! Tell folks to vote for you, your business or your favs! 3. To vote, you just have to enter your email (so we know you are a real person), NOT register as a business — that's only if you are a nominee! Go vote! Vote. EugeneWeekly.com.

>> **The Lane County Board of Commissioners continues to raise eyebrows.** As we mentioned in last week's Slant, Springfield Commissioner David

Loveall has been called on the carpet for referring to women as spinsters and strippers. Some county constituents have been taking him to task in the public comments section of some recent commission meetings, and the sensitive men of the commission asked that singling out individual commissioners for critique be stopped. Since they didn't stop (you know, free speech and all), Commissioner Pat Farr (who often votes in a block with Loveall and Ryan Ceniga) asked the county administrator to stop them. That seemed weird. So we asked Lane County Public Information Officer Devon Ashbridge about this and she told us that the board chair "or other commissioners can ask people to be civil during their public comments, but ultimately people can decide for themselves what they want to say." The exception, she writes in an email, is if "someone is truly disruptive or makes threats of violence; at that point we can suspend the meeting."

>> Thanks to all the readers who send us Activist Alerts! **As attacks on free speech, health care and the free press continue, please continue to speak up and exercise your rights.** Have an event? Put it in our What's Happening Calendar at Calendar.eugeneweekly.com. Saving democracy? Send the info to Editor@EugeneWeekly.com. We also welcome photos from protests! Not a protester but concerned? Check out the Civil Liberties Defense Center, CLDC.org, and the National Lawyers Guild, NLG.org, for information on how to be an ally or a legal observer.

>> Tuesday, Sept. 30, is the **monthly last Tuesday ICE protest at the federal building** (see Activist Alert for details.) On Tuesday, Sept. 23, local protesters were joined by some folks from Portland, and protesters were pepper sprayed and some were arrested by masked law enforcement. Find video at KLCC.org.

>> **It's a spur-of-the-moment gesture of kindness from motorists for people who are generally homeless and are already feeling isolated on street corners, holding signs pleading for help.** The motorist, stopped at an intersection, has a few extra bucks and hands it to the pedestrian on the corner. Now, the city of Eugene is considering a proposal banning motorists from this act unless legally parked, citing safety concerns. The result could be a \$50 fine for the motorist. City Councilor Eliza Kashinsky noted at the Sept. 17 work session that the proposed ordinance is targeting the homeless and will distract police from monitoring other driving behaviors, while advocates for the ordinance maintain that this is a safety issue, not a free speech issue. The ban Eugene is discussing targets the driver for giving, not the panhandler for asking, so does not run afoul of free speech laws — it just runs afoul of human kindness.

>> **Could luck be your lady?** On Sept. 27 at the Ford Alumni Center, get ready for a glamorous and high-stakes evening for a cause. The Lane County Diaper Bank is hosting a **Masquerade Casino Night** fundraiser. Enjoy delicious food and drinks while playing poker, blackjack and craps for raffle tickets of high-value prizes. Every chip you play and every raffle ticket you buy helps provide free diapers to families in need. Quite crucially, there will also be a dessert dash showdown. Wear beautiful clothes, feel your best and try your luck to get some diapers on some babies. Find out more in the *Weekly's* What's Happening Calendar or at LCDiaperbank.org.



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‘WHAT IF IT HAD BEEN LIFE-THREATENING?’

Sarah Reighley, who is Deaf, alleges she was turned away from urgent care because the doctor was uncomfortable treating her without a Video-Relay-Interpreter

BY SAVANNAH BROWN

On the morning of Sept. 10, Sarah Reighley, a woman who was born Deaf, arrived at BestMed Urgent Care on West 11th Avenue seeking medical assistance for a bleeding head wound after hitting her head against a wall. Less than 10 minutes after she checked in, she alleges that the receptionist informed her, using a pen and paper, that the doctor was uncomfortable treating her because the facility did not have an operating Video-Relay-Interpreter (VRI).

A VRI is a device that virtually connects a sign language interpreter into the appointment to provide communication between the doctor and a deaf patient.

Reighley says she informed the receptionist that she has many other ways to communicate with the doctor. This includes speaking with her own voice, writing everything down, lip-reading and using voice-to-text on her phone — the same methods she uses to communicate throughout her daily life, as well as in most of the health care settings she has experienced.

She says that despite this information, the receptionist maintained that the provider was still uncomfortable. Instead, the receptionist wrote down the address for the BestMed location on Willamette Street — a 15-minute drive — and informed her that they have VRI available.

Reighley says at the second location, she was not offered VRI, yet was still treated shortly after she arrived. At the same time, her appointment at the West 11th location was displayed as “canceled” in her patient portal.

“I’ve heard a lot from my friends about being denied medical care because they’re deaf, but it has never happened to me,” she says.

Reighley says she has been to the West 11th Avenue Urgent Care a total of five times, and was only offered VRI one time prior. She says that though she is willing to use VRI, it is not her preferred method of communication in the doctor’s office because it “doesn’t feel personal,” and is occasionally uncomfortable to have a stranger accompanying her in the private setting.

“I’m confused why the doctor was uncomfortable because if we used paper and pen, we would be fine,” she says, noting that this is a frequent method for her in doctor’s offices.

“Being denied care at the first location because of my Deafness left me shaken and made me wonder: What if it had been life-threatening?” she says.

BestMed Urgent Care declined to comment.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, “hospitals must provide effective means of communication for patients, family members, and hospital visitors who are deaf or hard of hearing.” The ADA clarifies that this applies to all hospital services and programs, including clinics such as urgent care.

Chad A. Ludwig is the founder of Bridges Oregon, which is the only culturally and linguistically specific nonprofit organization providing human services to Oregonians who

are Deaf, deafblind and Hard of Hearing. “Federal law requires health care providers to ensure effective communication, whether through interpreters, captioning, or the patient’s own preferred method,” he says. “Turning someone away is both unlawful and unsafe.”

Reighley says she has since filed formal complaints with the Oregon Medical Board, Bridges Oregon, National Association for the Deaf and Oregon Health Authority. She has also filed a formal complaint with Solv, BestMed’s parent company. At time of publication, Oregon Health Authority has responded to her, saying that they have

reviewed her concerns and agree that follow-up is necessary. There are no local advocacy groups or agencies specifically for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people.

She has also shared her story on her Instagram account, [Instagram.com/sarah.reighley](https://www.instagram.com/sarah.reighley) where she shares her experiences as a Deaf person and has more than 20,000 followers.

Disabled “people have a hard time seeking and having active health care because they are afraid,” she says. “We are made to believe that we are the problem.”

Ludwig agrees. “Far too many Deaf and Hard of Hearing people delay or avoid medical care out of fear of being denied services,” he says. “That creates real risks to health and safety.”

“Deaf and Hard of Hearing patients continue to face barriers to care, and ADA compliance is still inconsistently enforced in medical settings,” Reighley says. “I want it to get taken care of now. Because it is happening now.”



SARAH REIGHLEY

Photo by Irina Burk, Forever Ten Photography

ACTIVIST ALERT PROTESTS, ACTIVISM AND MORE AROUND LANE COUNTY

BY CAMILLA MORTENSEN

“We have run out of excuses and we are running out of time. We have come here to let you know that change is coming, whether you like it or not. The real power belongs to the people.”

— Greta Thunberg, environmental activist

Upcoming Rallies, Marches, Talks, Trainings and Protests

>> Fundraiser for Willamette Valley Crisis Care, 6 pm, Sept. 29, Oakshire Commons, 416 Main St., Springfield. Support the return of CAHOOTS-type services to Eugene.

>> Protest ICE: Last Tuesday Mobilization Response, 10 am on the last Tuesday of each month, Sept. 30, ICE office, 211 East 7th Avenue. More info at [Linktr.ee/psleugene](https://linktr.ee/psleugene). Be available for rapid response if there is an arrest via [Tinyurl.com/ImmigrantDefenseSignal](https://tinyurl.com/ImmigrantDefenseSignal).

>> Gaza: Doctors Under Attack documentary, 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm, Sunday, Oct. 5, each showing followed by a discussion. First Congregational Church, 1050 East 23rd Avenue. People for Peace and Justice in Palestine.

>> Fundraiser for Civil Liberties Defense Center with folksinger/activist Carsie Blanton, 6 pm, Sunday, Oct. 12. A night of revelry and camaraderie to raise money for CLDC’s Activist Defense Fund. \$15-50. CLDC.org.

>> No Kings 2.0, Saturday, 10 am, Saturday, Oct. 18, power to the people. Wayne L. Morse Federal Courthouse. Activist Coalition of Eugene Springfield (ACES).

Ongoing

>> Protest ICE, fight Flock cameras and more, with the Party for Socialism and Liberation Eugene, get info on protests, trainings, etc. at [Linktr.ee/psleugene](https://linktr.ee/psleugene).

>> Resist! Persist! Repeat! Weekly Protest, 10 am to 11 am, Mondays, corners of 29th and Willamette Street.

>> Singing for our Lives, noon, Tuesdays, 7th and Pearl, the BeLonging Space and Interfaith Alliance with Migrants.

>> Signmaking at MECCA, 11 am to 6 pm Tuesday through Saturday, help with

signmaking 11 am to 1 pm Wednesdays. Paint up to four signs for a donation of \$5 to \$10. MECCA, 555 High Street.

>> Weekly Vigils Against the Genocide in Gaza, 5 pm, Wednesdays, Planet Versus Pentagon, old federal building, corner of 7th & Pearl.

>> Sister District Postcarding, 6 pm to 10 pm, Wednesdays, Claim 52 Brewing, 232 Lincoln Street.

>> The Working Families Party Wolf Pack, meets the first Wednesday of the month to build a government and an economy that serves all, not just the wealthiest few. Register at [Mobilize.us](https://mobilize.us).

>> Weekly Get-Out-the-Vote Postcarding, 1 pm to 3 pm, Thursdays, Gryff’s Pub, 2101 Bailey Hill Road, gear up to let Californians know about Prop 50 and to turn Virginia, New Jersey and Pennsylvania blue on Nov. 4. For more info Pandi96743@yahoo.com.

>> Replace the Mainstream Parties with a Party Of, By, And For The People, We the People Party Lane County meet every other Friday 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at Tall Firs Cafe & Events,

1488 18th Street, Springfield. wtplane.org and wethepeoplelanecounty@proton.me.

>> Stop the Cuts, noon Fridays, Eugene Veterans Clinic, 3355 Chad Drive.

>> Stand in Solidarity with Food Not Bombs Feeding the Community, 4 pm Fridays, Food Not Bombs, Downtown Park Blocks, 8th and Oak, [Instagram.com/foodnotbombs_eugene](https://www.instagram.com/foodnotbombs_eugene).

>> Protest Trump’s Attacks on Immigrants, noon to 3 pm Fridays and Saturdays, in front of the Creswell AM/PM on Oregon Avenue, Creswell SALT (Standing Against Local Tyranny).

>> Avelo: The Deportation Airline, operating out of Eugene through Dec. 1, bit.ly/AveloOutOfEUG. The Avelo Out of Eugene coalition is working on other efforts to prevent more/similar flights and expand focus to include other companies that have ties to DHS/ICE. AveloOutOfEUG@gmail.com.

Email Editor@EugeneWeekly.com with “Activist Alert” in the subject line to add protests to this listing, and subscribe to the Activist Alert newsletter at EugeneWeekly.com/newsletter to get this information in your inbox on Wednesdays!

Bricks \$ Mortar

BY CHRISTIAN WIHTOL

Just before *Eugene Weekly's* press time, the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency announced it had issued the air permit for the proposed parcel-delivery center on Highway 99. The agency said it required the facility to meet certain electric-vehicle “targets” for the facility. It also capped the total number of parking spaces that could be available for internal combustion engine vehicles.

For more information: LRAPA-or.gov/event.



Photo by Christian Wihtol

AIR PRESSURE

LRAPA evaluates purported Amazon parcel-delivery center

The normally inconspicuous Lane Regional Air Protection Agency is in the limelight as it handles an air pollution permit for the massive proposed parcel-delivery center near the Eugene Airport.

Key questions include: what powers does LRAPA have over this project, and how will it use them? The agency says it has the toughest rules in the state for these kinds of facilities, but the anonymous company pushing the project wants to skirt those rules.

One LRAPA board member — a local environmental activist — has come out strongly against the project. Another — David Loveall, the hard-right member of the Lane County Board of Commissioners — is sharply in favor.

Hundreds of area residents have appealed to LRAPA to kill the project, which is widely assumed to be for Amazon. LRAPA officials say the outpouring — virtually all in opposition — is unprecedented in the agency's recent years.

LRAPA's rules say the air agency can nix the project only if it would cause air quality in Lane County to violate state air quality standards — which seems highly unlikely. But the agency's rules — specifically its so-called “indirect source” rules — give it power to force the developer to formally evaluate the impacts of the parcel-delivery center, including how much smog-creating air pollution its vehicles would create, and the vehicles' effect on traffic on Highway 99.

The rules also give LRAPA the power to impose conditions, including traffic management and ongoing air pollution monitoring. It's unclear if the agency can mandate that the delivery-truck fleet comprise only electric vehicles — a demand by some residents.

LRAPA's nod is essential for the project. In addition to LRAPA's rules, the city's rules for the industrial-zoned farmland where the project would be built require, “at the time of submittal” of building permit applications, a “pre-clearance letter” from LRAPA, “confirming that the proposed use and associated operations have the ability to meet air quality standards with appropriate control technologies and mitigation measures.”

The applicant's consultants filed for building permits nine months ago, and the city is processing them. But LRAPA has never provided such a letter, nor have the city or the applicant requested one, says LRAPA spokesperson Matt Sorensen.

LRAPA is the state-created government entity that enforces federal, state and its own air pollution rules in Lane County. Now, it faces intense lobbying from

the public and from the unnamed applicant, which is antsy to start building. The applicant's consultants argue that LRAPA's rules requiring a vehicle pollution study don't apply to this project, and that, besides, they can't find anyone to do such a study.

LOVEALL SPEAKS

The facility would be a 320,000-square-foot behemoth with more than 1,000 parking spaces for its delivery fleet. It would receive trailer-truck loads of packages, sort them on conveyor belts, and deliver them to area homes and businesses, the permit filings show.

Board member Dylan Plummer, an environmental and labor union leader, at a recent board meeting urged LRAPA's executive director, Travis Knudsen, to “reject the permit in light of [the project's] significant pollution.” At the very least, Plummer said, LRAPA should mandate an all-EV fleet “in order to address some of (the public's) pollution concerns.”

Plummer slammed Amazon's anti-union labor practices — even though the agency legally can't take that into account. “Amazon has made it clear that they do not value their workers,” Plummer said.

Loveall countered that the public's pollution fears were “a bit inflated.” Plus, rejecting the parcel-delivery project would be “devastating” to “those of us trying to find jobs, those of us trying to make ends meet,” Loveall said. But critics have argued the facility would likely not result in a net gain of local jobs. Almost all of Amazon's Lane County-area deliveries currently are done by workers for UPS, FedEx and the U.S. Postal Service, which Amazon contracts with. Amazon would simply shift that delivery work to people it would hire for the center, eliminating the work for the current contracted workers, critics fear.

TOUGHEST RULES

Amazon has already built such centers elsewhere in Oregon with scant fuss over air pollution. Why the uproar here? LRAPA has the strictest rules in the state for such facilities, LRAPA's Knudsen told the board at its most recent meeting. LRAPA created those rules itself, making them stricter than state and federal rules, as it is allowed to do, he told the board. The rules are LRAPA's 13-page Title 20 rules, initially created in 1976 and last updated in 1990.

The agency doesn't use the rules much, because not many development projects fall within its reach — really big parking lots for hundreds of vehicles.

The last time it issued such a permit was in 2009, for the several hundred parking spots for the state psychiatric facility near Junction City. The biggest project LRAPA has ever issued such a permit for was 21 years ago, for the PeaceHealth RiverBend hospital's several thousand parking stalls, LRAPA records show. It's not clear what LRAPA required of PeaceHealth. In the past quarter century, LRAPA issued 13 “indirect source” permits, mostly for parking lots at retail stores, plus the Royal Caribbean call center and the

Sony CD factory.

FIGHT OVER DEFINITIONS

Now, LRAPA is scrambling to determine how to apply the rules to the Hwy 99 project.

Emails between LRAPA and The Satre Group, the Eugene consultant handling the application for the anonymous developer, show friction over which parts of Title 20 apply.

Title 20 has two key sections: The first and toughest applies to facilities with “total parking capacity for 1,000 or more vehicles.” The second, and the weaker, applies to facilities with “parking capacity for 250 to 1,000 vehicles.”

In its filings with LRAPA, Satre states the center would have 359 parking spaces for employees and 1,030 spaces for delivery vehicles — or 1,389 spots in total. So, the tougher rules would seem to apply.

Yet Satre repeatedly argues they do not, its correspondence with LRAPA shows.

Satre has argued LRAPA's rules apply only to employee parking spots, not to the delivery fleet, so the weaker rules apply. Alternately, Satre has claimed the rules apply only to vehicles with internal combustion engines, and because the facility hopes a preponderance of its delivery trucks and employee vehicles eventually will be EVs, the tougher rules don't apply. The company “is aiming for” 70 percent of its fleet to be EVs by year 10 of the facility's operation, Satre states in a letter to LRAPA.

Under the tougher 1,000-spaces-plus rules, the developer must provide “an estimate of the gross emissions of carbon monoxide, lead, reactive hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen” from the internal combustion engine vehicles using the facility. Those chemicals contribute to smog. The weaker rules for the 250 to 1,000 parking spaces don't require such a study.

In emails, Satre complains it can't find anyone to do that study, and that its anonymous client has never been required to do such a study for other similar facilities it has built in Oregon, Washington and California. Such a study “is above and beyond what we need to do,” Satre told LRAPA.

The tougher, 1,000-spaces-plus rules also require “an estimate of the additional residential, commercial and industrial developments which may occur concurrent with, or as the result of the construction and use of the [project]. This shall also include an air quality impact assessment of such development.” Satre denies that requirement applies to its project.

THREE VEHICLES A MINUTE

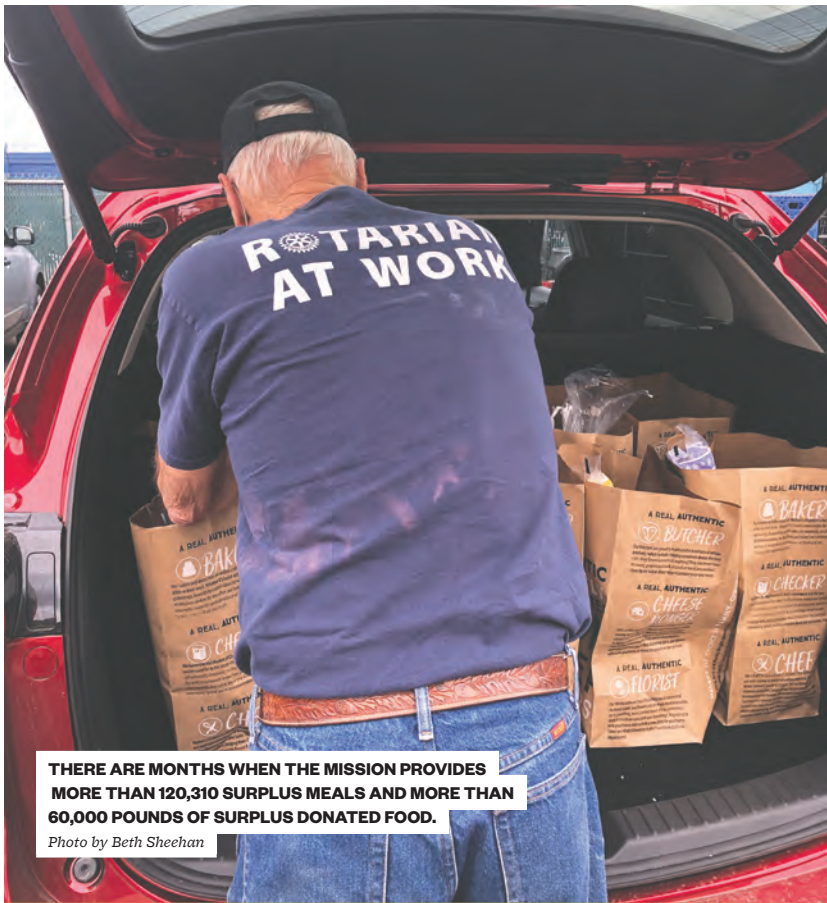
LRAPA's rules — both for 1,000-plus-space projects and for smaller ones — also require a traffic impact analysis for Hwy 99. Satre says it hired a contractor who did that study, and Satre provided LRAPA with some numbers from it, but not the study itself. The data show the parcel-delivery center at its peak daily operating time, 9 am to 5 pm, would add 1,327 vehicles to Hwy 99, Satre states. That's just under three vehicles a minute. Satre did not indicate that would cause any traffic problems.

LRAPA says it is evaluating the application. But the agency won't specify to *Eugene Weekly* what portions of the Title 20 it is applying to the project — the tougher 1,000-plus-spaces rules, or the weaker rules for smaller projects. It's unclear when LRAPA will make a decision.

Board member Plummer said he fears the city's designation of farmland around the Eugene Airport for industrial development will spark other developers to seek to build package-delivery centers there. LRAPA needs to clarify and strengthen its rules on the air pollution these places generate, he told the *Weekly*.

To review LRAPA's rules, visit LRAPA-or.gov.

Bricks \$ Mortar is a column anchored by Christian Wihtol, who worked as an editor and writer at The Register-Guard in Eugene 1990-2018, much of the time focused on real estate, economic development and business. Reach him at Christian@EugeneWeekly.com.



THERE ARE MONTHS WHEN THE MISSION PROVIDES MORE THAN 120,310 SURPLUS MEALS AND MORE THAN 60,000 POUNDS OF SURPLUS DONATED FOOD.

Photo by Beth Sheehan



MARIA CHECCHIN TAKES CUSTOMERS' ORDERS AT THE CASH REGISTER, WHILE PATRONS DECIDE WHAT GOODS TO BUY FROM THE DESSERT CASE AT REALITY KITCHEN.

Photo by Samantha Sobel

Eating with an Impact

SOME LOCAL EATERIES SERVE THE COMMUNITY BY SAMANTHA SOBEL

Dining out is out of reach for some members of the community who struggle to feed themselves, and at the same time, the food service industry itself can be a gateway into jobs and financial stability. Here are three of the kitchens in town that feed people and help them feed themselves.

Reality Kitchen is a local nonprofit that provides employment paths and job experiences for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in an inclusive setting for growth. Its large soft pretzels are a popular treat and its baked goods are found at eateries around town.

Through its Supported Employment Program, Reality Kitchen offers a blend of education and job training to give students the tools they need to follow their dreams. Some of the skills include food and kitchen safety, cooking techniques, customer service, cashiering and learning how to be a barista. Reality Kitchen provides job opportunities through its wholesale bakery and retail cafe.

"We are building a community where people of all experiences come together and share, learn and engage," says Jim Evangelista, co-founder and executive director of Reality Kitchen. "We are changing the perspectives of our community about the employment options that are available to individuals with IDD, intellectual and

developmental disabilities."

These classes are open to individuals 18 to 25 years old, experiencing IDD, who are not already enrolled in transition services through their school district.

In the past, Reality Kitchen has provided hundreds of free meals a week, working in tandem with fellow nonprofits Carry It Forward and Burrito Brigade. Evangelista says in the last nine months, rising costs and staffing issues have prevented the nonprofit from providing those community resources.

Evangelista says, "We focus on food because everybody needs to eat, and everybody needs to be able to feed themselves in a consistent, healthy and safe way."

He says that modeling those behaviors and teaching various skills empowers people and builds self-confidence, which is at the deep core of Reality Kitchen's mission. The 13-year-old nonprofit is led by a board of 10 directors with diverse skills and expertise to keep "baking a difference," as its website puts it.

"This has to keep going forward, and that means making important choices with the responsibilities that we manage, looking into the future," Evangelista says. "That's our commitment to the community, is to make sure that all the work that we've done together to establish and put this organization in place — that it's here for the future, not just the present."

In the next month, Reality Kitchen plans

to open its first general store location on River Road, debuting a food preservation kitchen for pickling and canning. The nonprofit plans to resume distributing free meals to the community soon after opening as well, and reopen its bright blue pretzel wagon.

Find Reality Kitchen at 645 River Road, 10 am to 6 pm Thursday and Friday and 9 am to 2 pm Saturdays. 541-505-8867, RealityKitchen.org.

Since 2014, **Burrito Brigade** has provided over 300,000 free nutrition-dense, vegan meals to the community and still distributes around 600 to 650 burritos every weekend. The nonprofit is run by dozens of volunteers on a mission to mitigate the issue of food insecurity throughout Lane County, one burrito at a time. Its mobile business model helps reach the parts of the community directly in need.

On Saturdays, the nonprofit serves a tofu breakfast burrito with roasted veggies, and on Sundays, the Brigade serves up burritos filled with beans, rice, roasted veggies and salsa.

"The most rewarding thing is people telling me testimonials when they come in and say that their health has improved," says Jennifer Denson, Burrito Brigade executive director.

The organization frequents spots like Washington Jefferson Park, St. Vincent de Paul's First Place Family Center and Night Annex in south Eugene, and homeless

camps dispersed throughout the community. Burrito Brigade also distributes via RAVEN, Radical Assistance for Vulnerable Eugene Neighbors.

One of Burrito Brigade's programs, Waste to Taste, rescues thousands of pounds of food destined for landfill and reorganizes the items like a grocery store to allow people to come pick out their own food choices privately, based on appointment.

Burrito Brigade isn't just a way to feed people a conveniently packaged meal. Denson says the organization is offering people a quality meal that some people experiencing homelessness wouldn't be able to afford usually.

"The cool thing to watch with our program is people taking things that they might not otherwise try because of the price point," she says. "Somebody getting to try some local kale or local chard or local tomatoes, because the price is not a factor."

The nonprofit also offers delivery services for those who don't have a car or aren't able to pick up resources directly.

In addition, the nonprofit has placed over 50 Little Free Pantries in neighborhoods throughout the county that are restocked with fresh food weekly. The pantry motto is "Take what you need, give what you can."

"We have volunteers that enjoy sorting weird produce, we have volunteers that enjoy making the burrito, so it's such

a community effort. We have so many awesome volunteers making this work, and it shows through them giving back to others,” Denson says.

Burrito Brigade’s services have expanded past the growth of the establishment they’re currently renting, so the nonprofit says it is buying a bigger building in the Whiteaker, on the intersection of First Avenue and Washington Street, at the beginning of 2026.

Find out more about Burrito Brigade at 1775 West 6th Avenue, 541-632-3239, BurritoBrigade.org.

The **Eugene Mission Culinary Arts Training Kitchen** is a classroom for teaching the cooking skills needed for sufficient living and demonstrates skills for a variety of culinary jobs. In addition to providing consistent meals, the program allows the Eugene Mission’s guests to learn with

“Believe it or not, when I first started, I thought, ‘Oh, it’s just the Mission; they only serve, like, soup or bread’ because that’s what I’d see on TV. It’s not just soup and bread,” Hemphill says. “There are times I make salmon, I make hamburger, I make a big chicken. These people eat like they would in a restaurant. That’s how we feed them.”

Breakfast is 6:15 am to 7:15 am, lunch is from 11 am to noon, and dinner is from 6 pm to 7 pm. Anyone who comes in late can take pre-packaged leftovers to go. There is no limit on how many plates each person can get, as long as they are a guest at the Mission; they have full access.

“Nobody could ever go and say they’re still hungry,” Hemphill says. “There is something for everyone.”

The Eugene Mission accepts donations and distributes them as needed

‘The most rewarding thing is people telling me testimonials when they come in and say that their health has improved.’

— JENNIFER DENSON,
BURRITO BRIGADE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

step-by-step instructions from experienced chefs.

Hazel Hemphill has been working at the Eugene Mission as one of the head chefs for three years and feeds hundreds of people a day.

“The Eugene Mission is a home for not only those on the street,” Hemphill says. “It is for people who are broken, drug addicts, people who come out of prison, people who lost their homes; they come here and get a second chance.”

The program helps people learn hospitality, how to serve food elegantly and provides opportunities for familial bonding through cooking new recipes.

The Eugene Mission serves breakfast, lunch and dinner with a variety of options for different preferences and dietary restrictions. They serve vegan, vegetarian and pork alternatives as well.

throughout the community. According to Sheryl Balthrop, executive director of the Eugene Mission, there are months when the Mission provides more than 120,310 surplus meals and over 60,000 pounds of surplus donated food worth more than \$100,000.

The Mission supports Bethel School District, Head Start of Lane County, and Oakridge and Dexter Food Share, as those areas are considered food deserts without an abundance of grocery stores and accessible food options.

The Mission also hosts and serves lunch and breakfast to civic groups in the community, such as Twin Rivers Rotary Club, with china, linen and flowers on the table as well as the ability to host hybrid in-person/virtual meetings.

Eugene Mission’s Culinary Kitchen is 1542 West 1st Avenue. 541-344-3251, EugeneMission.org.

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The Spice is Right

JUNCTION CITY'S AROMA OF INDIA IS GAINING POPULARITY AND IT'S PLANNING TO COME TO EUGENE BY HENRY HOUSTON

The home of the Scandinavian Festival is quickly becoming known for another world of spices. Aroma of India is one of Junction City's newest restaurants, offering a menu of foods popular in the Punjab area of South Asia. Opened by Satpal Singh in January of this year, the restaurant is part of his family's Indian food joints in Lane County.

Singh moved to Eugene in 2019 from India. Growing up, cooking was his passion when he was learning from his mother, and he says he's continuing to learn every day. Whether he's at home or at the Junction City restaurant, he's trying out new recipes.

"Every time I'm making food, I'm thinking, 'If I can eat

it, then anybody else will eat it,'" Singh says.

Aroma of India is Singh's second restaurant endeavor. He took over the Sardarni's Kitchen in 2023, a food cart that runs outside Monkey's Paw Tiki alongside three other food carts. He says the cart is now operated by his brother.

Eugene boasts a healthy selection of Indian restaurants, from the longstanding Evergreen Indian Cuisine in the Washington Jefferson neighborhood to Royal India near Valley River Center.

When Singh was developing his menu, he says he looked at what the other Indian restaurants offer. Other Indian restaurants in Eugene prepare their food in the styles of different regions of India. Royal India and Taste

of India have menus focused on North Indian cultures, and Evergreen's is South Indian.

How Singh prepares his menu's gravies — which are used as a base to various dishes — is how he differentiates himself from other restaurants. His onion gravies and tomato purees, he says, are prepared in a style more traditional to his Indian home state of Punjab. "I'm making it the traditional Indian way, like my mother made," he adds.

While Singh works in the kitchen, he says he experiments with gravies, the base to many of his menu's dishes. Finding that right balance of spices is key for Singh, as too much of one thing can shift the flavors too far. But with that gravy base, Singh says it allows him to be versatile with customers and cook food to order.

"Every time a customer orders, we make it fresh," Singh says. "We are not making food in the morning and then serving it the whole day."

With about half the menu dedicated to vegetarian dishes, Singh says he wondered if he had too many non-meat options. But he's heard praise for those items. A vegetarian himself, Singh is quick to recommend the *mutter paneer* and the *malai kofta*, which features fried potato dumplings in a creamy sauce, as his favorite items on the menu.

The mutter paneer is seemingly the lighter dish on the menu, being a tomato-based sauce with a healthy heaping of peas and cuts of paneer, an Indian cheese. The malai kofta is more on the mild side for the restaurant with fried potato dumplings with a sweet flavor all in a creamier sauce.

But carnivores can still get their meat fix. With *tandoori*, *biryani* and other curry options, Aroma of India has plenty of dishes that put meat in the center. For those seeking the thrill of a spicy dish, they'll find refuge in the chicken *kadai*, a dish filled with bell pepper, onion and spice-tinged sauce.

For the two worlds of vegetables and meat, Aroma of India has *saag*, available with chicken or lamb. Saag is a mix of leafy green vegetables and Singh says it's one of the more popular dishes in the Indian state of Punjab and the Pakistani province of the same name.

Singh is planning to open a second Aroma of India in south Eugene around November this year. He says he plans to open the restaurant around 24th and Willamette Street.

But for now, Singh relishes the success that he and Aroma of India have had in Junction City.

"Many times, we've had customers here and they're eating Indian food for the first time in a long time, and we have people here who have been eating Indian food for a long time," Singh says. "They say it's different and out of this world."

Aroma of India is at 510 Greenwood Street, Junction City. Hours are 10 am to 10 pm every day. 541-234-2029. The Eugene location is planned for 2490 Willamette Street. Sardarni's Kitchen is at 426 Main Street Springfield. Hours are 11 am to midnight Thursday through Sunday, noon to midnight Monday through Wednesday.

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Nelson's Comes to Campus

WHITEAKER FAVORITE NELSON'S IS OPENING A NEW RESTAURANT IN THE HEART OF CAMPUS, WHILE THE BELOVED NELSON'S TAQUERIA FOOD TRUCK SAYS GOODBYE

BY JADE YAMAZAKI STEWART

Nelson's Taqueria food truck — and its neighboring restaurant Nelson's in the Whit — are staples of the Whiteaker neighborhood. The food truck has been serving burritos, *quesabirria* tacos and other classic Mexican dishes for 10 years. Nelson's in the Whit quickly became a lively spot for specialty margaritas and Mexican fare after opening in 2021. Both have won multiple *Eugene Weekly* Best Of Eugene awards.

Now, Nelson's owners, married couple Nelson Lopez and TJ Mooney, are embarking on the next chapter of their business by opening Nelson's on Campus near The Duck Store on 13th Avenue on Sept. 27. At the same time, they're closing Nelson's Taqueria food truck to focus on their new venture.

"We want to introduce a new generation of people to Nelson's, and how good it is," Mooney says.

Lopez, known for his charisma and friendly personality, will be transitioning from the food truck to running things at Nelson's in the Whit, while Mooney manages Nelson's on Campus.

Mooney says Lopez wanted to be more involved day-to-day at Nelson's in the Whit, and he couldn't also work at the food truck at the same time.

"There's only two of us," Mooney says. "All good things must come to an end."

The new location will be open 10 am to 10 pm Monday through Thursday and 10 am to midnight Friday and

Saturday. Nelson's in the Whit, which is currently a dinner spot, with the food truck open during the day, is expanding its hours in the food truck's absence. It will be open from 11 am to 10 pm Monday through Saturday.

"People who like Nelson and Nelson's Taqueria can go in and do a to-go order or they can sit down and hang out with him," Mooney says.

Nelson's on campus will have a similar menu to that of its Whiteaker counterpart, with tacos, burritos and nachos and quesabirria, too. But it won't have some of the larger or more time-intensive dishes like fajitas and tamales.

"It's going to be more quick-service geared toward college kids," Mooney says. "So we're going to pare down the menu."

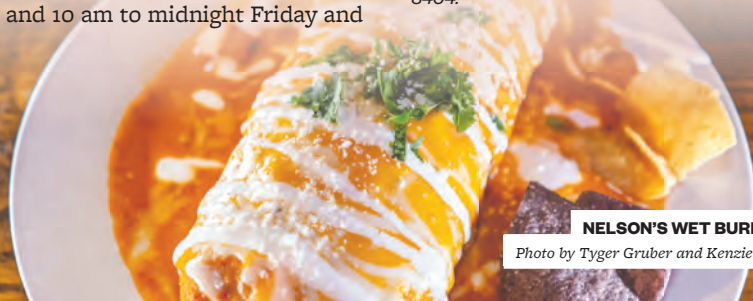
The new space will, however, have a full bar. "We're famous for our margaritas, so of course we'll be bringing those with us," Mooney says.

Margarita flavors at Nelson's in the Whit include blackberry guava, mango habanero and pineapple jalapeno.

Nelson's will be the only Mexican restaurant near the main strip on 13th on the west side of campus (besides Qdoba), serving to expand food options for students for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and being open until midnight on Friday and Saturday, for late-night drinking snacks. The space will also feature some big TVs for showing Duck games.

"I think it will be a nice complement to the area," Mooney says. "We're really excited. We've wanted to do this for a long time."

Nelson's on Campus will be open 10 am to 10 pm Monday through Thursday and 10 am to midnight Friday and Saturday at 871 East 13th Avenue, Suite C. A grand opening is scheduled for 5 pm Saturday, Sept. 27. Nelson's in the Whit is located at 400 Blair Boulevard. Restaurant hours are at NelsonsintheWhit.net, 541-844-8404.



NELSON'S WET BURRITO.

Photo by Tyger Gruber and Kenzie Wong



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From Food Cart to Full House

THE ARIANO BROTHERS OF EL NOPALITO WENT FROM SELLING OUT OF THEIR VAN BUREN STREET CART TO RUNNING A RESTAURANT THAT'S PACKED UNTIL AFTER CLOSING TIME

BY MIRANDAH DAVIS-POWELL

Since El Nopalito graduated from its food cart to a much-awaited brick-and-mortar restaurant in July, crowds of customers linger after closing. Reluctant to leave the warm atmosphere of the new Mexican restaurant on Willamette Street, some stay for 45 minutes to an hour after the 9 pm closing time.

What may be a frustration for some restaurant owners is a delight to Marco and Eduardo Ariano. "Everyone's having a good time," Marco says. "It brings us joy."

After many weekends where Marco would sell out early in their food truck to the disappointment of customers who would come from Florence or Salem to try their food, he's grateful to have a place that can serve everyone. He was already familiar with the kitchen at their new location, too. The last time Marco was working at that storefront on Willamette, he was at Claim 52 as a line cook.

The Ariano family, including parents Victoria Gonzalez and Antonio Ariano, has deep roots in Eugene's restaurant scene. Marco was the first of the brothers to be introduced to the restaurant world. Around age 10, he remembers following his dad to work at El Vaquero, a restaurant formerly housed in Fifth Street Public Market. Cutting limes and picking cilantro, he helped with small tasks "with the permission of the owner, obviously," he says.

The brothers' professional journeys read like a tour of Eugene's restaurant scene. Starting as a dishwasher at Belly



EL NOPALITO'S
EDUARDO ARIANO
HOLDS A FISH TACO,
A BEEF TACO AND A
SEASONAL SALAD.
Photo by Eve Weston

Taqueria at 17, Marco worked his way up through the ranks there and at Tacovore under Chef Gabriel Gil. He then spent four to five years at different notable restaurants in Eugene, including Novo Latin Table and Sabai.

At Novo, Marco remembers being challenged to master tortilla-making — eight hours a day for three months until he got it right. Early experiences at Novo taught him to care about the little details, a kind of care that carried over into his own restaurant.

When Novo closed during the pandemic and the restaurant industry was struggling, the family reached a collective realization: They were "tired of working for someone else," Marco says.

The brothers and their mom, Victoria Gonzalez, began their food cart venture from practicality, with it being lower risk than opening a restaurant. But from the

beginning, Marco and his mother had a clear vision that set them apart. Initially, they kept it a secret that they were operating the cart, but it didn't take long for word to spread. Before long, the cart became a gathering place for local restaurateurs and chefs on Sundays.

"We didn't want people to go to the food cart because they knew us, but because of the food, our concept," Marco explains. Their menu deliberately avoided the standard offerings found at most Mexican food carts. No burritos, no rice and beans, no flour tortillas. Instead, they focused on authentic Mexico City street food: *pambazos*, *huaraches* and *quesadillas* made with corn tortillas, just like in their hometown.

Every detail mattered. They served food on real plates instead of paper, imported Oaxaca cheese directly from Mexico and made everything from scratch. They've kept their commitment to quality at their

brick-and-mortar eatery.

"We try to go a step above with everything, like the margarita flavoring, like a lot of people use, a pre-made puree. No, we grab fresh fruit. We cut it up, blend it and the pulp of the fruit makes a huge difference," Eduardo says.

When the brothers learned that Claim 52 was leaving the Willamette Street building, the opportunity felt too good to pass up. Despite competing against three or four other businesses, they were chosen not just for their business plan, but as the building owners told them, "because of the food that you guys are bringing to Eugene." For Marco, it felt like coming full circle. He'd be returning to work at the same storefront where he'd once been hired as a line cook.

Looking ahead, the brothers have a clear vision for the space: "I kind of want this space to feel like the cart did at one point, to make it feel like it's small," Eduardo says. He wants the restaurant to feel so popular that they need more space. They're working to "bring that Mexican culture, Mexican feel, to everyone," planning events like *lotería* on Thursday evenings and considering live music.

Today, the brothers work 15-hour days, six days a week, but as Marco puts it, they're "happily tired." Their parents still work in the kitchen, and they've hired former regular customers in the kitchen who already knew the menu by heart.

Their ultimate goal remains bringing authentic Mexican food to Eugene, not "Americanized" versions. They want El Nopalito to remain a gathering place that honors their Mexico City roots while creating new memories in Eugene.

"All the marinades, the sauces, we make everything from scratch, and we try to make them as close as possible as to what we remember how they tasted in Mexico," Marco says. They want to be as close as possible, but know that the original in Mexico City will always take the cake.

"You know, if you compare the food in Mexico City to our food," he says, "the food in Mexico City is always going to win, but we try to make it as close as possible."

El Nopalito, 1203 Willamette Suite #140, is open 11 am to 8 pm Monday through Thursday, 11 am to 9 pm Friday, 10 am to 9 pm Saturday and 10 am to 3 pm Sunday. 541-357-1016. Find on Instagram.



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what's happening

2024 EUGENE BRIGHT PARADE
Photo by Athena Delene, Delene & Co



SEPT. 27

The **Eugene BRiGHT Parade** returns Sept. 27. It is a free family-friendly event in downtown Eugene featuring a brightly illuminated showcase of human and electric-powered art. This year's theme is "SHINE TOGETHER," meant to celebrate the Eugene community's creativity and spirit. Event planner Jerril Nilson says the parade is produced through volunteers, the city of Eugene, Lane Arts Council and local corporate sponsors (including *Eugene Weekly*). She says there are 36 entries in this year's parade, which sometimes include electric or pedal-powered vehicles as colorful and festive as the handmade costumes, suiting the parade's description as an "art in motion event." Categories range from puppetry to oversized props, marching and more. Judges will watch the parade from four locations along the route and then choose a winner in each category. The grand marshal for the 2025 event is Shift Community Cycles. After the parade, Nilson says to attend the after-party hosted by the City of Eugene Cultural Services. It is at the Farmers Market Pavilion with food trucks, beverages, music and dancing, more illuminated art installations and the announcement of the 2025 parade award winners. Also new this year, Nilson says planners initiated a "how to get to the parade" campaign using bike, bus and walk options. It also includes parking options and suggestions for how to navigate downtown during the road closures, with more information available on the event's website. Nilson says there's also still time to volunteer, with a sign-up form and more details available online. "Come downtown, wear lights, wear a costume," Nilson says. "Bring your grandparents and your grandkids and your neighbors, too." — *Will Kennedy*

The Eugene BRiGHT Parade is 7:15 pm to 8:30 pm, Saturday, Sept. 27. It starts and ends at 8th Avenue and Pearl Street, with a complete parade route map and volunteer opportunities available online at EugeneBrightParade.com. The parade after-party is 8:30 pm to 10 pm at the Farmers Market Pavilion, 85 East 8th Avenue.

September 25 THURSDAY

Art/Craft

Landscape & Wildlife Art Display, 4pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave.

Paint & Sip: Sunset Lake, 6:30-8:30pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St. ste. 104. \$35.

Civics

LCOG Board of Directors Meeting, 6-8pm, Lane Council of Governments, 859 Wilamette, Park Place Bldg., Ste. 500.

Comedy

Kathleen Madigan: The Day Drinking Tour, 5pm, Hult Ctr. \$39.75-49.75.

Timothy Patrick Singing Cowboy Comedy, 7-8:45pm, The Playhouse, 208 Laurel St., Florence. \$10.

Shane Mauss, 8-11pm, WOW Hall, 291 W. 8th Ave. \$25-35.

Drag

The Muse Collective Cabaret: Celestial Bodies, 9pm, Sparrow & Serpent, 211 Washington St. \$10.

Film

Horrible Bingo: Slugs (1988), 7-9pm, Art House, 492 E. 13th Ave. \$10.

Food/Drink

Thursday Night Tasting: Pelican Brewing, 5pm, PLAY, 232 W. 5th Ave.

Thursday Tastings, 5-7pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Wilamette.

Trivia, 6:30-8:30pm, Viking Brewing W., 520 Commercial St. ste. F

Gatherings

Emerald Empire Kiwanis Club Meeting, noon, Countryside Pizza & Grill, 645 River Rd.

Kids/Family

Family Storytime, 10:15am, Bethel Branch Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd.

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Sensory Storytime, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Literary Arts

Lace & Literature: Sapphic Book Club, 6-8pm, Shelton McMurphey Johnson House, 303 Willamette.

Nightlife

3rd Annual Hop Fest, 11:30am-10pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd.

Cat Bingo Night, 5:30-7pm, Eugene-Spfd. Cat Lounge, 537 W. Centennial Blvd. \$25

Trivia Night, 6-9pm, Eugene Elks Lodge #357, 2470 W. 11th Ave.

Trivia, 7pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave.

Thursday Night Karaoke w/ Adam, 8pm-midnight, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd.

Karaoke, 8:30pm-12:30am, The Barn Light, 924 Willamette.

Outdoors/Recreation

Gentle Chair Yoga w/ Clark Stacer, noon-1pm, St. Thomas Episcopal Fellowship Hall, 1465 Coburg Rd.

Social Dance

Latin Dancing, 7-10pm, Claim 52 Brewing, 232 Lincoln St. \$5.

Spiritual

Higher Self Meditation, 5-5:30pm, Online, visit

SpiritualArts.Org for more information.

Refuge Recovery, 5:30-7pm, Sacred Connections Community Church, 810 W. 3rd Ave.

Tarot Practice Circle, 7-9pm, Seven Sisters Circle \$4-9.

Teens

Mad Libs Tea Party, 4pm, Bethel Branch Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd.

September 26

FRIDAY

Art/Craft

Wild Women Art & Soul One Day Retreat, 9am-5pm, The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 3925 Hilyard St. \$179.

Landscape & Wildlife Art Display, 4pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave.

Whiteaker Last Friday ArtWalk, 5pm, Whiteaker Neighborhood, visit WhiteakerArtWalk.com for map.

Cottage Grove Art Walk, 6pm, Historic Downtown Cottage Grove, Main St., Cottage Grove.

Learn Cat Origami, 6-7pm, Eugene-Spfd. Cat Lounge, 537 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd. \$20.

Paint & Sip: Colorful Fall Path, 6:30-8:30pm, Art w/

Alejandro, 590 Pearl St. ste. 104. \$45.

Benefits

Smooches from Pooches Tattoo Fundraiser, 1-7pm, Whiteaker Tattoo Collective, 995 W. 7th Ave.

Film

American Historia: The Untold History of Latinos, 4pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Shortcutterie, 8pm, Opal Ctr. for Arts & Education, 513 E. Main St., Cottage Grove. \$10.

Food/Drink

Breakfast at the Bike Bridges, 7-9am, Frohnmayer Bike Bridge.

Gatherings

The Braking Zone Grand Opening, 5-8pm, The Braking Zone, 855 W. 1st Ave.

Kids/Family

Family Storytime, 10:15am, Sheldon Branch Eugene Public Library, 1566 Coburg Rd.

Preschool Storytime, 10:30am, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Lectures/Classes

Djembe Drumming w/ Ibou Sylla, 5:30-7pm, Djembe Trading Post, 1740 W. 10th Ave. \$25.

From Trailhead to Heart's Home, 6-8:30pm, Obsidian Lodge, 2250 E. 29th Ave.

Nightlife

3rd Annual Fresh Hop Fest, 11:30am-10pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd.

Trivia, 7pm, The Barn Light, 924 Willamette.

Twisted Karaoke w/ DJ Saturn, 8pm-midnight, Twisted Duck Pub, 529 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd.

Karaoke, 9pm-1am, The Barn Light, 924 Willamette.

Outdoors/Recreation

Fun Friday Goat Yoga, 5pm, No Regrets Flower Farm & Animal Sanctuary, 26641 Bellfountain Rd., Monroe. \$25.

Critical Mass Bike Ride, 6:30pm, Kesey Square, Willamette St. & Broadway E.

Social Dance

Salsa & Bachata Social Dancing & Drop-in Class, 9pm-12:15am, The Vet's Club, 1626 Willamette. \$8.

Spiritual

Access More of the Real You, 10am-noon, Shizen Sanctuary, 1345 W. 16th Ave.

Recovery Dharma Buddhist Recovery Meeting, 10am-11am, Jesco Club, 340 Blair Blvd.

Teens

LGBTQ+ Youth Group, 4-6pm, Amazon Community Ctr., 2700 Hilyard St.

Theater

Sunday In The Park w/ George, 7pm, Pegasus Playhouse, 402 Main St., Spfd. \$17-25.

4:05 A Nocturnal Comedy, 7:30-10pm, Actors Cabaret of Eugene, 996 Willamette. \$21-59.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975): Shadowcast Performance, 8pm, Whiteside Theatre, 361 SW Madison Ave., Corvallis. \$20.

September 27

SATURDAY

Art/Craft

Landscape & Wildlife Art Display, 4pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave.

Mandala Dot Rock Painting Workshop & Goat Happy Hour, 10am-noon, No Regrets Flower Farm & Animal Sanctuary, 26641 Bellfountain Rd., Monroe. \$45.

Paint & Sip: Sunny Autumn Day, 3-5pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St. ste. 104. \$45.

The Art of Grief, noon-2pm, McNail-Riley House, 601 W. 13th Ave.

Paint & Sip: Snail on Mushroom, 6:30-8:30pm, Art w/

Alejandro, 590 Pearl St. ste. 104. \$45.

Benefits

Masquerade Casino Night, 6pm, Starlight Lounge, 830 Olive St. \$100-180.

Comedy

Brewed & Amused, 7pm, Arable Brewing Company, 510 Conger St. \$15-22.

Comedy Night, 7pm, Drop Bear Brewery, 2690 Willamette. \$25.

Drag

Drag Bingo, 5pm, Sparrow & Serpent, 211 Washington St.

Our Flag Means Drag: The Fuckery, 7-11pm, The Hybrid, 941 W. 3rd Ave. \$15.

iOrgullo!, 9pm, Monkey's Paw Tiki Bar, 420 Main St., Spfd.

Kinky Chimera Cabaret, 10pm-2am, Wiley's Side Pocket Tavern, 846 W. 6th Ave. \$5.

Farmers Markets

Lane County Farmers Market, 9am-3pm, Lane County Farmers Market, 8th Ave. & Oak St.

Spencer Creek Community Grower's Market, 10am-2pm, Spencer Creek Grange, 86013 Lorane Hwy.

Veneta's Downtown Farmers' Market, 10am-2pm, Veneta's Downtown Farmers' Market, 88267 Territorial Rd., Veneta.

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CALENDAR



SUZEN TATTOOZEN GETTING SMOOCHES

Courtesy of Suzen Tattoozen

SEPT. 26

Look no further, **Smooches From Pooches** is back! After several years off because of COVID-19, Greenhill Humane Society and Whiteaker Tattoo Collective are coming together again for a fundraising event, this Friday, Sept. 26. It will also be the first stop of the Whiteaker Last Friday Art Walk, a monthly walk around the neighborhood to support local businesses and artists. According to Suzen Tattoozen, the owner of Whiteaker Tattoo Collective, Smooches from Pooches was their most popular event before it was interrupted by COVID. This year, they will offer a Doggy Kissing Booth, where attendees can use pocket change to give dogs a treat for a smooch. For \$10, Suzen Tattoozen says you can buy a coupon for "seven minutes in doggy heaven," which will allow you into a gated area to play with several dogs. Greenhill Humane Society also plans to bring two adoptable dogs for everyone to meet. Tattoozen says that four tattoo artists are offering a wide range of flash designs at the event. These include puppy and kitty designs, and even more general flashes such as aquatic and even PNW designs. "It's always stuff that's probably the size of a hand or smaller," she says. Whiteaker Tattoo has already been fundraising, with 25 percent of proceeds from designated flash tattoos currently going toward Greenhill until the end of the event on Friday. "It's always neat for me in outreach to be able to see how people get creative with fundraising for Greenhill, and this is a perfect example," says Kelly Fleischmann, the community engagement manager of Greenhill. — *Ruby Duncan*

Smooches From Pooches is 5 pm to 8 pm, Friday, Sept. 26, at Whiteaker Tattoo Collective, 995 West 7th Avenue. Admission is free but there is a charge for tattoos, swag and pet adoptions. For more information call Whiteaker Tattoo at 541-255-2734 or call Greenhill Humane Society at (541) 689-1503 or visit Green-Hill.org.

Festival

Forest Mountain Lion at Corvallis Fall Fest, 1-1:45pm, Central Park, 650 NW., Monroe Ave., Corvallis.

2025 Eugene BRIGHT Parade & AfterParty, 7-10pm, 8th Ave. & Pearl St.

Film

Saturday Morning Cartoons, 10am-2pm, Caffe Pacori, 255 Wallis St.

Gatherings

Overeaters Anonymous, 9:30am-10:30am, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1685 W. 13th Ave.

Hello Handcraft Hangout, 11am-2pm, Eugene Garden Club, 1645 High St. FREE-\$1.

Guided History Tour of Eugene Masonic Cemetery, 1pm, Eugene Masonic Cemetery, 25th & University.

Kids/Family

Kennedy Middle School Emergency Water Station Demonstration, 9:30-11:30am, Kennedy Middle School, 2200 Bailey Hill Rd.

Baby & Toddler Storytime, 10:15am, Bethel Branch Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd.

Family Storytime, 10:30am & 11:15 Downtown Eugene Public Library.

LEGO, 3-5pm, Bethel Branch Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd.

Lectures/Classes

Topics in Cancer: Let's Talk About It, 8am-5pm, Valley River Inn, 1000 Valley River Way.

Virgil's Aeneid: The Most Influential Work of the W. World, 9:30am-noon, UO Baker Downtown Ctr., 975 High St. \$95-150.

Eugene Food Preservation Workshop: Apple Workshop,

support.eugeneweekly.com

10am-2pm, Community of Christ Church, 1485 Gilham Rd. \$18.

Swiss Darning for Functional & Creative Repair w/ Nika Jin, 11:30am-1:30pm, 555 High St. \$38.

Learn to Use Your Sewing Machine w/ Kayla Boyce, 3-5pm, 555 High St. \$50.

Markets

Eugene Saturday Market, 10am-4pm, Park Blocks, 8th Ave. & Oak St.

S.A.R.A.'s Parking Lot Sale, 10am-5pm, S.A.R.A.'s Treasures, 871 River Rd.

Nightlife

3rd Annual Fresh Hop Fest, 11:30am-10pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd.

Music Bingo, 6pm, Local Losers Lounge, 85944 Highway 99 S.

All Star Karaoke, 9pm, The Pour House Tavern, 444 N. 42nd St., Spfd.

Outdoors/Recreation

Kidical Mass Ride, 2pm, Sladden Park, 925 Cheshire Ave.

Original Goat Yoga Experience, 4-5pm, No Regrets Flower Farm & Animal Sanctuary, 26641 Bellfountain Rd., Monroe. \$30.

Spectator Sports

Football Watch Party: UO vs. Penn State, 4:30pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette.

Theater

Sunday In The Park w/ George, 7pm, Pegasus Playhouse, 402 Main St., Spfd. \$17-25.

4:05 A Nocturnal Comedy, 7:30-10pm, Actors Cabaret of Eugene, 996 Willamette. \$21-59.

September 28 SUNDAY

Art/Craft

Goats & Glass Class: Sunflower, 10am-1pm, No Regrets Flower Farm & Animal Sanctuary, 26641 Bellfountain Rd., Monroe. \$125.

Creativity Café, 1-3pm, The Hybrid-Eugene, 941 W. 3rd Ave. \$10.

Paint & Sip: Autzen Stadium, 2-4pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St. ste. 104. \$45.

Landscape & Wildlife Art Display, 4pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave.

Benefits

Sole Support for Parkinson's, noon-4pm, Alton Baker Park, 100 Day island Rd.

Lucky Paws Pet Adoption Events, 1-4pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave.

Bingo Benefiting Charity: Western University Medical, 3-5pm, Tallman Brewing, 2055 Primrose St., Lebanon. \$2-5.

Comedy

Hand Shoes & Horse Grenades, 7:30pm, Luckey's Club, 933 Olive St.

Film

Fargo (1996), 6pm, Whiteside Theatre, 361 SW Madison Ave., Corvallis. \$8-10.

Food/Drink

Lifestyle Medicine: Vitality for the Mind, Body & Soul, 2-4pm, Eugene Family YMCA Don Stathos Campus, 600 E. 24th Ave. \$20-30.

10th Anniversary Whiskey Pairing Dinner, 5pm, Jazzy Ladies Cafe & Club, 560 Oak St. \$100.

Gatherings

Sunday Gathering, 10:30-11:30am, The Ctr., 390 Vernal St.

Hope Abbey Open House, 1-4pm, Eugene Masonic Cemetery, 25th & University.

Kids/Family

Building, 1-4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Family Bingo, 5:30pm, Drop Bear Brewery, 2690 Willamette.

Lectures/Classes

The Basics of Kink & BDSM w/ Javay da BAE, 1-3pm, As You Like It: The Pleasure Shop, 1655 W. 11th Ave. ste. 1. \$20.

Literary Arts

Writing Time, 6:30-9pm, Wordcrafters Studio, 436 Charnelton St. Ste. 100, \$5.

Markets

Sunday Market, 11am, Sacred Connections Community Church, 810 W. 3rd Ave.

Nightlife

3rd Annual Hop Fest, 11:30am-10pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd.

Speed Friending, 1:15-3:30pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St. ste. 4606, Spfd. \$15-20.

Karaoke w/ DJ Johnben, 8pm-midnight, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd.

Outdoors/Recreation

Original Goat Yoga Experience, 4-5pm, No Regrets Flower Farm & Animal Sanctuary, 26641 Bellfountain Rd., Monroe. \$30.

Social Dance

The Merry Lanesters, 11:15am, 118 Merry Lane.

Bachata Fusion Social Dance & Drop-in Lessons, 7pm, Xscape Dance Academy, 1416 W. 7th Ave. \$10-15.

Dances of the Balkans, 7:15-9:45pm, The Vet's Club, 1626 Willamette. \$5.

Spiritual

Sunday Morning Soul Connection, 9:45am-11am, Hilyard Community Ctr., 2580 Hilyard St.

Selections from "The Hidden Words" of Bahá'u'lláh, 10am-11:30am, Baha'i Ctr. of Eugene, 1458 Alder St.

Nondual Teachings from the Great Spiritual Traditions, 11am-12:45pm, The Ctr. for Sacred Sciences, 5440 Saratoga St.

Access More of the Real You, 5-7pm, Shizen Sanctuary, 1345 W. 16th Ave.

Theater

Sunday In The Park w/ George, 6pm, Pegasus Playhouse, 402 Main St., Spfd. \$17-25.

September 29 MONDAY

Art/Craft

Sit & Stitch, 6pm, Shelton McMurphey Johnson House, 303 Willamette.

Make & Take Craft Party, 6:30-8:30pm, Mazatlan, 106 E. Oregon Ave., Creswell. \$38-114.

Benefits

Oakshire Inspires Benefit, 5-8pm, Oakshire Commons, 416 Main St., Spfd.

Bingo for Lane County Diaper Bank, 6:30pm, Claim 52 Brewing, 232 Lincoln St. \$5-25.

Gatherings

Afternoon Chess, 4-6pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd.

Eugene Peace Choir New Season, 6pm, First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St.

Cascade Brewers Society Monthly Meeting, 7-9pm, Claim 52 Brewing, 232 Lincoln St.

Lectures/Classes

Higher Self Meditation, 9am-9:30am, Online, visit SpiritualArts.org for more information.

Nahuatl Class, 6-7pm, Online, email speaknahuatl@gmail.com to RSVP.

Literary Arts

Untamed Page, 6:30-8:30pm, The Hybrid-Eugene, 941 W. 3rd Ave. \$15.

Nightlife

Eugene Deadhead Trivia & Dance Party, 6pm, Whirled Pies, 199 W. 8th Ave. \$5.

Hard Mode Geek Trivia, 6-7:30pm, 5th St. Market Eateries, 296 E. 5th Ave.

Cribbage w/ Eugene Cribbage, 6:30-8:30pm, Coldfire Brewing Company, 263 Mill St. \$3.

Quality Trivia, 6:30-8:30pm, Oakshire Public House, 207 Madison St.

Trivia Mondays w/ Geo, 6:30-8:30pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd.

Monday Night Trivia, 7pm, PLAY, 232 W. 5th St.

Outdoors/Recreation

Beginner's Rock Climbing, 6-8pm, Crux Rock Climbing Gym, 401 W. 3rd Ave. \$17.

September 30 TUESDAY

Art/Craft

Tuesday Figure Art Sessions, 6:15-9pm, New Zone Gallery, 110 E. 11th Ave., Ste. C \$8.

Civics

Lane County Board of Commissioners Mtg., 9am & 1:30pm, Harris Hall, 125 E. 8th Ave. or visit LaneCountyOr.gov for link.

Eugene Mayor Kaarin Knudson Speech Open to Public, noon-1pm, First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St.

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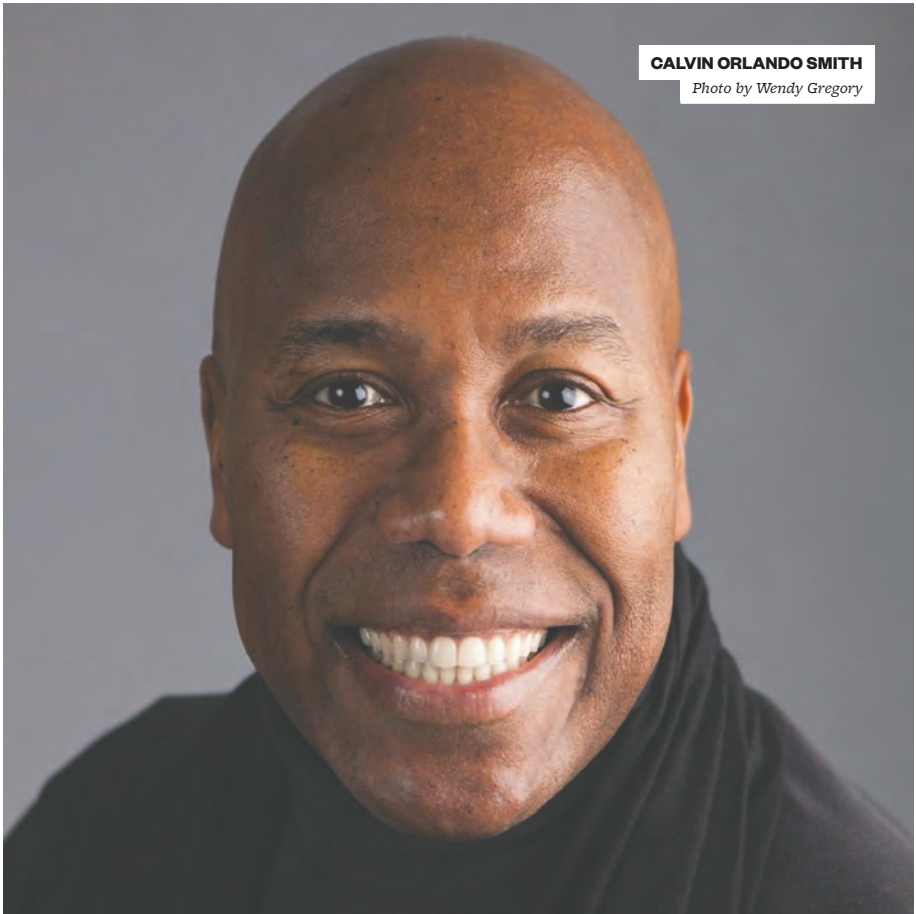
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CALENDAR



CALVIN ORLANDO SMITH
 Photo by Wendy Gregory

SEPT. 27
Travel back in time with the **NAACP Harlem Renaissance in Blue and Gold** Sept. 27 at the Hult Center. In the 1920s and '30s, the Harlem Renaissance was a flourishing of Black voices in art, theater, music and more. Centered around the New York City neighborhood, the Renaissance gave the world Langston Hughes, Duke Ellington, Zora Neale Hurston and many other important contributions to the American cultural canon. The event offers a unique opportunity to hear selections from a brand-new folk opera, *York the Explorer*. From creator and baritone Aaron Nigel Smith and the Portland Opera's Jasmine Johnson, it tells the story of York, the enslaved Black man who accompanied Lewis and Clark on their travels west. Other performances include Eugene's Calvin Orlando Smith and Nick Rieser performing jazz standards, before MC Shoehorn performs a unique piece blending saxophone and tap dance. You'll also hear from Eugene pianist Chris Stubbs, Aimée Okotie-Oyekan reading from her recent works of poetry, and jazz bassist and former NAACP president Eric Richardson presenting a selection of works honoring Black culture and the Harlem Renaissance. After the show, Styr Kurbside Kitchen hosts the soul food speakeasy-themed Freedom Fund Dinner, with a special ticket price for both the show and food. "In these divisive times," event-planner Irene Rasheed says, "we aim to get back to basics: using Black cultural arts to bring the Eugene-Springfield community together for a good cause." She says that through supporting the NAACP's human civil rights work, the event will "speak to the intentions we have here in Lane County to support a safe, connected and unified community." — *Will Kennedy*

NAACP Harlem Renaissance in Blue and Gold is 4:30 pm, Saturday, Sept. 27, at the Hult Center. Tickets begin at \$25, with limited \$200 tickets for both dinner and the show. The event is all ages. Proceeds benefit the Eugene/Springfield NAACP. Period-appropriate attire is encouraged.

Farmers Markets

Tuesday Farmers Market, 9am-2pm, Lane County Farmers Market, 8th Ave. & Oak St.

Pint Night, 11am-9pm, Falling Sky Brewing, 1334 Oak Alley.

Food/Drink

Tacos & Trivia, 6-8pm, Tallman Brewing, 2055 Primrose St., Lebanon.

Chess Night, 6-8:30pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette.

Wednesdays w/ Ty Connor, 6:30-8:30pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd.

Quality Trivia, 6:30-8:30pm, Oakshire Commons, 416 Main St., Spfd.

Bingo w/ Judy Jitsu, 7pm, PLAY, 232 W. 5th St. \$1.

Trivia Tuesday, 7pm, The Pour House Tavern, 444 N. 42nd St., Spfd.

Twisted Karaoke & Tacos, 8pm, Twisted Duck Pub, 529 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd.

Outdoors/Recreation

Gentle & Restorative Yoga, 10-11am, Trauma Healing Project, 631 E. 19th Ave. Bldg. B. \$5-15.

Gentle Chair Yoga w/ Clark Stacer, noon-1pm, St. Thomas

Kids/Family

Baby Storytime, 9:45am, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Tweens: Nintendo Switch Party, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Literary Arts

Writing Time, 9:30am-noon, Wordcrafters Studio, 436 Charnelton St. Ste. 100. \$5.

Nightlife

Elks Lodge Bingo, 5-9pm, Elks Lodge #357, 2470 W. 11th Ave. \$5.

Episcopal Fellowship Hall, 1465 Coburg Rd.

Community Learn to Ride, 4:30-6:30pm, 4J Education Ctr., 200 N., Monroe St.

Aikido Beginners Series, 6-7pm, Eugene Aikikai, 870 W. 2nd Ave. ste. B. \$90.

Social Dance

Latin Dance Night w/ DJ Vito, 7-11pm, The Cowfish Dance Club, 62 W. Broadway. \$8.

October 1 WEDNESDAY

Civics
Lane County Board of Commissioners Mtg., 9am & 1:30pm, Harris Hall, 125 E. 8th Ave. or visit LaneCountyOr.gov for link.
Transportation Advisory Committee Mtg., 5:30-7:30pm, Public Works Customer

Service Ctr., 3050 N. Delta Hwy. or visit LaneCountyOr.gov for link.

Comedy

Another Round: Open Mic Comedy, 7:30pm, The Pint Pot Pub, 195 E. 17th Ave.

Open Mic, 7:30pm, The Hybrid-Eugene, 941 W. 3rd Ave. \$5.

Comic, Interrupted, 8:30pm, Cowfish, 62 W. Broadway. \$5.

Film

Fargo (1996), 7pm, Whiteside Theatre, 361 SW Madison Ave., Corvallis. \$8-10.

Watch Party Wednesdays: Survivor Season 49, 7:30pm, PublicHouse, 418 A St., Spfd.

Gatherings

Talk Time: Practice Conversational English, 4pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Overeaters Anonymous, 6-7:30pm, Unity of the Valley, 3912 Dillard Rd.

Men's Stick Talking Circle, 7-9pm, Stargate Lotus Room, 1374 Willamette.

Kids/Family

Toddler Storytime, 9:45am & 10:30am Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Create a Felt Pumpkin, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Lectures/Classes

Knit & Crochet Circle, 6pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

NW EcoBuilders Guild Happy Hour Get Together, 6-8pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave.

Literary Arts

Write Your Way Forward, 3-4:30pm, Wordcrafters Studio, 436 Charnelton St. Ste. 100, \$89.

Nightlife

Quality Trivia w/ Rob & Lorraine, 5-8:30pm, Hop Valley Brewing Co., 990 W. 1st Ave.

Cribbage, 6:30-8:30pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette. \$5.

Bingo Night, 7pm, Twisted Duck Pub, 529 W. Centennial Blvd., Spfd.

Bingo Wednesdays w/ Ty Connor, 7-9pm, beergarden, 777 W. 6th Ave.

Trivia w/ Thomas Hiura, 7-9pm, Starlight Lounge, 830 Olive St.

Karaoke Night, 8-11pm, The Pour House Tavern, 444 N. 42nd St., Spfd.

Outdoors/Recreation

Community Yoga, 5:30-6:30pm, Sacred Connections Community Church, 810 W. 3rd Ave.

Social Dance

Argentine Tango Dancing, 7-10pm, Veteran's Memorial Ballroom, 1626 Willamette. 2nd fl. \$7-10.

Teens

Halloween Victorian Tea, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

October 2

THURSDAY

Art/Craft

Paint & Sip: Van Gogh's Wheatfield w/ Crows, 2-4pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St. ste. 104. \$35.

Paint & Sip: Moonlit Pumpkin, 6-8pm, Art w/ Alejandro, 590 Pearl St. ste. 104. \$35.

Food/Drink

Thursday Night Tasting: Schilling Hard Cider, 5pm, PLAY, 232 W. 5th Ave.

Thursday Tastings, 5-7pm, The Bier Stein, 1591 Willamette.

Gatherings

Emerald Empire Kiwanis Club Meeting, noon, Countryside Pizza & Grill, 645 River Rd.

Hearing Voices & Different Realities Discussion & Support Group, 1-2:30pm, Trauma Healing Project, 631 E. 19th Ave. Bldg. B.

Kids/Family

Family Storytime, 10:15am, Bethel Branch Eugene Public Library, 1990 Echo Hollow Rd.

Sensory Storytime, 4:30pm, Downtown Eugene Public Library.

Lectures/Classes

Higher Self Meditation, 5-5:30pm, Online, visit SpiritualArts.Org.

Nightlife

Trivia Night, 6-9pm, Eugene Elks Lodge #357, 2470 W. 11th Ave.

Trivia, 6:30-8:30pm, Viking Brewing W., 520 Commercial St. ste. F.

Trivia, 7pm, Gratitude Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave.

Thursday Night Karaoke w/ Adam, 8pm-midnight, Happy Hours, 645 River Rd.

Karaoke, 8:30pm-12:30am, The Barn Light, 924 Willamette.

Outdoors/Recreation

Gentle Chair Yoga w/ Clark Stacer, noon-1pm, St. Thomas Episcopal Fellowship Hall, 1465 Coburg Rd.

Aikido Beginners Series, 6-7pm, Eugene Aikikai, 870 W. 2nd Ave. ste. B. \$90.

Social Dance

Latin Dancing, 7-10pm, Claim 52 Brewing, 232 Lincoln St. \$5.

Spiritual

Refuge Recovery, 5:30-7pm, Sacred Connections Community Church, 810 W. 3rd Ave.

Theater

Hokus Pokus Live, 8pm, McDonald Theatre, 1010 Willamette. \$59-233.25.

Add your event to Eugene Weekly's What's Happening Calendar for free at EugeneWeekly.com. Email Cal@EugeneWeekly.com with questions or call 541-484-0519.

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Music Listings

THURSDAY 9/25

BEERGARDEN Forest Mountain Lion (folk rock) — 7pm.
KESEY SQUARE Artistic Encounters w/ Skip Jones (r&b) — noon.
LUCKEY'S CLUB Funk Night Eugene — 9pm.
MAC'S RESTAURANT & NIGHTCLUB Goatmouth (jam band) — 7pm. \$9
OAKSHIRE COMMONS Live Music — 6pm.
PLAY EUGENE Records w/ DJ Foodstamp — 8pm.
SPRINGFIELD EAGLES LODGE NO. 3597 Thursday Night Jam — 7pm.
TALLMAN BREWING Open Mic Night: Acoustic Music — 5:30pm.

TERRITORIAL VINEYARDS AND WINE COMPANY Southtowne Saints (jazz) — 6pm.
THE HYBRID Blowgun (samba fusion) — 7:30pm. FREE-\$12
TSUNAMI BOOKS Claudia Schmidt (folk) — 7:30pm. \$22.50

FRIDAY 9/26

2430 KINCAID ST. Sunbather Die, Moonbear, Blue Essence (punk) — 6:30pm. \$7
BEERGARDEN Epiphonic (r&b) — 7:30pm.
BENNETT VINEYARDS & WINE CO Riffle (blues-rock) — 5pm.
BUGSY'S BAR & GRILL Survivors (classic rock) — 8pm.
EUGENE SCIENCE CENTER Friday Laser Shows — 6pm. \$7.50
GRATITUDE BREWING Dubious Rubes (Americana) — 7:30pm.
HULT CTR. Topeka Clementine (indie) — 8pm. \$10
KESEY SQUARE Artistic Encounters w/ Caveman Dave (Americana) — noon.
LONG TOM BAR & GRILL EastSide Allstars (horns) — 8pm.
MAC'S RESTAURANT & NIGHTCLUB FlashVox (classic rock) — 8pm. \$7
MAX'S TAVERN Lonesome Randall: Maximum 60s — 7pm.
OAKSHIRE PUBLIC HOUSE Live Music — 6pm.

PLAY EUGENE Soul Sessions: Dave Dluxx & Killa Kam (DJ) — 8pm.
SUMMERFIELD VINEYARDS Live music — 6pm.
TALLMAN BREWING Johnathan Sterling (r&b) — 6pm.
TERRITORIAL VINEYARDS AND WINE COMPANY The Concrete Delta (Americana) — 6pm.
THE EMBERS Coupe de Ville (classic rock) — 8pm.
THE JAZZ STATION Eugene Hard Bop Collective — 7:30pm. \$25
VIKING BREWING WEST Swing Jam w/ Track Town Swing — 6:30pm.
WOW HALL MarchFourth (rock) — 8pm. \$25-30

SATURDAY 9/27

1670 ALDER ST., Wornout Joy, Rainfly, Mulch, Blue Essence (punk rock) — 6:30. \$10.
BEERGARDEN Meadow Rue (bluegrass) — 7:30pm.
BLAIRALLY Drive to Space w/ Goatmouth (jam band) — 9pm. \$8-10
GRATITUDE BREWING Boxcar Figaro (Americana) — 7:30pm.
MAC'S RESTAURANT & NIGHTCLUB The Savvy Katz (Americana) — 8pm. \$7

MCKENZIE GENERAL STORE & OBSIDIAN GRILL Jerry Zymbach, blues — 6pm.
OAKSHIRE COMMONS Willy D. Light (surf) — 6pm.
OAKSHIRE PUBLIC HOUSE Live Music — 6pm.
SMITTY'S Survivors (classic rock) — 5:30pm.
ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH Riffle (blues-rock) — 5pm.
TALLMAN BREWING Tuesday String Band (bluegrass) — 6pm.
TERRITORIAL VINEYARDS & WINE COMPANY Donnie Raye & The Blues Foundation — 6pm.
THE CUTHBERT AMPHITHEATER Shaq's Bass All Stars (rave) — 5pm. \$71.75 — 82.25
THE EMBERS Coupe de Ville (classic rock) — 8pm.
THE HOUNDSTOOTH PUBLIC HOUSE Damage Done w/ Special Guests (punk folk) — 7pm.

THE JAZZ STATION Idit Shner Quartet — 7:30pm. \$25
VIKING BREWING WEST Wellington Drive (Americana) — 6pm.
WOW HALL Cameron Whitcomb (singer-songwriter) — 8pm. \$26-126

SUNDAY 9/28

ALESONG BREWING & BLENDING Sassafras (folk rock) — 4pm.
BEERGARDEN Harlan Rivers (Americana) — 4pm.
DOWNTOWN EUGENE PUBLIC LIBRARY Record Listening Party: Tears for Fears — 1:30pm.
EVEN STEVEN'S EastSide Sunday Jam (horns) — 5pm.
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Oasis Ensemble: Introducing our New Pianist — 3pm. \$10-25
GRATITUDE BREWING Open Mic — 4pm.
OAKSHIRE PUBLIC HOUSE Live Music — 6pm.
PUBLICHOUSE Open Mic w/ Amblin — 5:30pm.
SACRED CONNECTIONS COMMUNITY CHURCH Open Mic — 6pm.
SAM BOND'S GARAGE Sunday Irish Jam — 4pm.
TSUNAMI BOOKS The Horsenecks & Miners of Country & w/ Gabrielle Macrae & Barry Southern — 7pm. \$20

MONDAY 9/29

ART HOUSE Kristen Ford & Rachael Sage (folk) — 7pm. \$20-22
BEERGARDEN Bluegrass Jam & Game Night — 6pm.
HOUNDSTOOTH PUBLIC HOUSE Open Mic Mondays — 6:30pm.
THE SPARROW & SERPENT PUB Reggae Vybez — 9pm.
WOW HALL, UO Welcome Week Rave — 8-11:45pm.

TUESDAY 9/30

MAC'S RESTAURANT & NIGHTCLUB Rooster's Blues Jam — 6pm.

WEDNESDAY 10/1

MULLIGAN'S PUB Open Mic — 8:30pm.
THE JAZZ STATION Katie DeCosta Quintet — 7pm. \$10



RACHAEL SAGE
Photo by Anna Azarov

SEPT. 29 New York eclectic folk singer-songwriter **Rachael Sage** returns to Eugene Sept. 29 at Art House, supporting her new release *Canopy*, out Oct. 24 on Sage's own Mpress Records. Built in the 1920s, Art House is a former church and morgue turned part-time events venue and longtime movie theater. "I love that," Sage says of the Art House environment. The closest she's come in the past, she says, is "a venue in Ohio where they apparently had ghosts. They were actively giving ghost tours in the basement while I was performing upstairs. It was pretty cool!" (Art House's location is also said to be haunted.) Sage's band is called The Sequins, and with *Canopy*, she says it's the first time she's included the name of her band in the album title. "It's exciting to be able to give these phenomenal players and humans their 'flowers' after so many years," Sage says. Referring to the album, she adds, "It's entirely about serving the songs, creating the very best music with the most honest intentions that we can," she says. "I think this record, which is very much focused on the themes of safety, inclusivity and acceptance, as well as peace in a variety of contexts, manages to do that." Still, she says, it has "a few 'bops' in there to make people smile and jump around." The Sequins' Trina Hamlin, who plays harmonica, percussion and sings, joins Sage at the Art House show. She shares the bill with Nashville singer-songwriter Kristen Ford, touring behind her 2025 roots rock album *Pinto*, out now on Ani DiFranco's Righteous Babe Records. — *Will Kennedy*

Kristen Ford and Rachael Sage's Joy = Resistance Tour stops in Eugene 7 pm, Monday, Sept. 29, at Art House, 492 East 13th Avenue. Tickets are \$20 advance, \$22 day of show. The concert is all-ages, no children under 6.

WOW HALL Mon Rovia (indie) — 8pm. \$23

THURSDAY 10/2

COWFISH DANCE CLUB Noche De Rumba w/ DJ Pachanga Mix — 9pm.
LUCKEY'S CLUB Funk Night Eugene — 9pm.

OAKSHIRE PUBLIC HOUSE Live Music — 6pm.

PLAY EUGENE Records w/ DJ Yawnee Mislap — 8pm.

SPRINGFIELD EAGLES LODGE NO. 3597 Thursday Night Jam — 7pm.

THE HYBRID Katie Dahl (singer-songwriter) — 7:30pm. \$15-20

THE JAZZ STATION Bell-tower — 7:30pm. \$25

TSUNAMI BOOKS Paul Safar & The Tsunami Baby Grand w/ The Hostedans (classical) — 6:30pm.

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Chain Reactions Stunning To See

The International Online Art Collective's Chain Reaction Exhibit is at The Hybrid Gallery

BY DAN BUCKWALTER

One silver lining of the COVID pandemic: It brought together 14 visual artists from eight countries via Zoom with different professional backgrounds who forged lasting friendships. Over two years, they created what Eugene-based artist Susan Detroy calls “a sweet show.”

That show — The International Online Art Collective’s multi-media **Chain Reaction Exhibit** — opened Sept. 5 at The Hybrid Gallery to rave reviews. It will continue through Oct. 20, and it’s not a small installation.

“It’s really a big project,” says Detroy, an IOAC member who notes that the show, working alongside Greta Olivas of Florence, another IOAC member, and Hybrid staff, took more than six hours to put up. “This is one of the biggest shows I’ve been a part of.”

Detroy says IOAC was formed in 2019 as a smaller group from Chicago-based Sergio Gómez’s “Art NXT Level” project — a project that explores the creation and curation of artworks using technologies like virtual reality and the metaverse.

“We didn’t know each other,” Detroy says of the 14 artists, but that would soon change when *Chain Reaction* began to take shape in 2020.

Artists followed each other through

seven rounds for each of the show’s 100 pieces, all adding their unique professional touches that Detroy says include oil, water color and acrylic paintings as well as mixed media and photography. Each artist had a week with the piece, Olivas says, all in kind of a blind draw, before it was emailed in a jpeg to the next artist.

“We never followed the same person,” Olivas adds. “Some are pretty obvious, and some are not. Some went out of their comfort zones.”

The key to understanding the art, both women say, is to read the narratives of each piece that accompany the show. Detroy notes that she has seen visitors at the gallery read the entire narrative of all the pieces in one swoop, while others go back and forth between a piece and its narrative to get the full flavor of the individual piece.

The *Chain Reaction Exhibit* premiered in Jamestown, New York, in November 2025 under the guidance of Wendy Bale, a member of IOAC. “I got to meet several people for the first time,” Olivas recalls of that show.

It has since been seen in Washington, D.C., and Miami. It could be headed to Australia or New Zealand as well as Italy, Detroy says.

Detroy notes that The Hybrid Gallery has been an encouraging partner in the Eugene show and that she took her time to find the proper venue for the *Chain Reaction Exhibit*.

“I worked a long time to find a place in Eugene,” she says. “They have been very supportive.”

The International Online Art Collective’s Chain Reaction Exhibit runs through Oct. 20 at The Hybrid Gallery, 941 West 3rd Avenue. Gallery hours are noon to 5 pm and 7 pm to 10 pm Wednesday, noon to 5 pm Thursday and 9 am to 4 pm Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The exhibition will also be featured during the Whiteaker Last Friday ArtWalk 5 pm to 8 pm Sept. 26, which includes the Whiteaker Community Market pop-up.

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF COVINGTON COUNTY, ALABAMA. IN THE MATTER OF: A.C., DOB: 10/22/2015, CASE NO.: JU-2017-98.04 DHR NO: 38583. NOTICE OF PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS TO: M.C., mother of A.C. a minor child born on October 22, 2015. Notice is hereby given that a peti-

tion has been filed by the Alabama Department of Human Resources in Covington County seeking to terminate your parental rights to A. C. You are required to file an answer with the Clerk of Court and the Petitioner's attorney, Rod Sylvester, P. O. Box 1054, Andalusia, Alabama 36420, within fourteen (14) days after the last publication of this notice or a judgment will be entered against you. A hearing has been set in this Court for the 5th day of November, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in the Covington County Juvenile Court, 1K North Court Square, Andalusia, Alabama 36420, at which time you may appear and contest the same, if you so choose. Amy W. Jones Circuit Clerk

IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF COVINGTON COUNTY, ALABAMA. IN THE MATTER OF: L.C. DOB: 06/07/2013 CASE NO.: JU-2017-97.04 DHR NO: 38583. NOTICE OF PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS TO: M.C., mother of L.C. a minor child born on June 7, 2013. Notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed by the Alabama Department of Human Resources in Covington County seeking to terminate your parental rights to L. C. You are required to file an answer with the Clerk of Court and the Petitioner's attorney, Rod Sylvester, P. O. Box 1054, Andalusia, Alabama 36420, within fourteen (14) days after the last publication of this notice or a judgment will be entered against you. A hearing has been set in this Court for the 5 day of November, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in the Covington County Juvenile Court, 1K North Court Square, Andalusia, Alabama 36420, at which time you may appear and contest the same, if you so choose. Amy W. Jones Circuit Clerk

Superior Court of California, County of Santa Barbara Case No. 24CV06929, Zeiher v. Smith. Amended Plaintiff's Claim and ORDER to Go to Small Claims Court. Notice to the person being sued: • You are the defendant if your name is listed in 2 on page 2 of this form or on form SC-100A. The person suing you is the plaintiff, listed in 2 on page 2. • You and the plaintiff must go to court on the trial date listed below. If you do not go to court, you may lose the case. If you lose, the court can order that your wages, money, or property be taken to pay this claim. • Bring witnesses, receipts, and any evidence you need to prove your case. • Read this form and all pages attached to understand the claim against you and to protect your rights. Aviso al Demandado: • Usted es el Demandado si su nombre figura en 2 de la página 2 de este formulario, o en el formulario SC-100A. La persona que lo demanda es el Demandante, la que figura en 2 de la página 2. • Usted y el Demandante tienen que presentarse en la corte en la fecha del juicio indicada a continuación. Si no se presenta, puede perder el caso. Si pierde el caso, la corte podría ordenar que le quiten de su sueldo, dinero u otros bienes para pagar este reclamo. • Lleve testigos, recibos y cualquier otra prueba que necesite para probar su caso. • Lea este formulario y todas las páginas adjuntas para entender la demanda en su contra y para proteger sus derechos. The people in 1 and 2 must attend court: 1: David Eric Zeiher. 2: Bradford Dudley Smith. Trial date: Nov. 18, 2025, 9:00 am. Instructions for the person suing: Do not use this form to recover COVID-19 rental debt, which is unpaid rent or other financial obligations under a tenancy due between March 1, 2020, and September 30, 2021. (See Code of Civil Procedure, § 1179.02.) To recover COVID-19 rental debt, use form SC-500, Plaintiff's Claim and ORDER to Go to Small Claims Court • You are the plaintiff. The person you are suing is the defendant. • Before you fill out this form, read form SC-100-INFO, Information for the Plaintiff, to know your rights. You can get form SC-100-INFO at any courthouse or county law library, or go to www.courts.ca.gov/forms. • Fill out pages 2, 3, and 4 of this form. Make copies of all the pages of this form and any attachments—one for each party named in this case and an extra copy for yourself. Take or mail the original and the copies to the court clerk's office and pay the filing fee. The clerk will write the date of your trial in the box above. Your court may allow electronic filing. Check your local court website for information: www.courts.ca.gov/find-mx-aourt.htm. • You must have someone at least 18—not you or anyone else listed in this case—give each defendant a court-stamped copy of all pages of this form and any pages this form tells you to attach. There are special rules for "serving," or delivering, this form to public entities, associations, and some businesses. See forms SC-104, SC-104B, and SC-104C. • Go to court on your trial date listed above, bring witnesses, receipts, and any evidence you need to prove your case. 1. The plaintiff (the person, business, or public entity that is suing) is: David Eric Zeiher 2. The defendant (the person, business, or public entity being sued) is: Bradford Dudley Smith of Eugene, Oregon. 3. The plaintiff claims the defendant owes \$ 4899.84. a. Why does the defendant owe the plaintiff money? Plaintiff David Zeiher surrendered a security deposit of \$1600 to be returned upon move out. On 10/3/22, Plaintiff was served 60 days notice to vacate by Defendant Plaintiff vacated premises on 11/29/2022 in satisfactory condition. Defendant did not return the deposit at all nor was any reason given for non return within 21 days after move out. b. When did this happen? (Date): December 22. 2022. 4. You must ask the defendant (in person, in writing, or by phone) to pay you before you sue. If your claim is for possession of property, you must ask the defendant to give you the property. Have you done this? Yes. 5. Why are you filing your claim at this courthouse? This courthouse covers the area (1) Where the defendant lives or does business. (2) Where the plaintiff's property was damaged. (3) Where the plaintiff was injured. (4) Where a contract (written or spoken) was made, signed, performed, or broken by the defendant or where the defendant lived or did business when the defendant made the contract. 6. List the zip code of the place checked in * above: 93101. 7. Is your claim about an attorney-client fee dispute? No. 8. Are you suing a public entity? No. 9. Have you filed more than 12 other small claims within the last 12 months in California? No. 10. Is your claim for more than \$2,500? Yes. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information above and on any attachments to this form is true and correct. Dated: 6/26/2025. David Eric Zeiher. Information for the defendant (the person being sued) "Small claims court" is a special court where claims for \$12,500 or less are decided. Individuals, including "natural persons" and sole proprietors, may claim up to \$12,500. Corporations, partnerships, public entities, and other businesses are limited to claims of \$6,250. (See below for exceptions.) The process is quick and cheap. The rules are simple and informal. You are the defendant-the person being sued. The person who is suing you is the plaintiff. Do I need a lawyer? You may talk to a lawyer before or after the case. But you many not have a lawyer represent you in court (unless this is an appeal from a small claims court.) How do I get ready for court? You don't have to file any papers before your trial, unless you think this is the wrong court for your case. But bring to your trial any witnesses, receipts, and evidence that support your case. And read "Be Prepared for Your Trial" at www.courts.ca.gov/smallclaims/prepare. What if I need an accommodation? If you have a disability or are hearing impaired, fill out form MC-410, Disability Accommodation Request. Give the form to your court clerk or the ADA/Access Coordinator. What if I don't speak English well? As the court clerk as soon as possible for a court-provided interpreter. You may use form INT-300, Request for Interpreter (Civil), or a local court form to request an interpreter. If a court interpreter is unavailable for your trial, it may be necessary to reschedule your trial. You cannot bring your own interpreter for the trial unless the interpreter has been approved by the court as a certified, registered, or provisionally qualified interpreter.(See Cal. Rules of Court, rule 2.893, and form INT-140). Where can I get the court forms I need? Got to any courthouse or your county law library, or print forms at www.courts.ca.gov/forms. What happens at the trial? The judge will listen to both sides. The judge may make a decision at your trial or mail the decision to you later. What if I lose the case? If you lose, you may appeal. You'll have to pay a fee. (Plaintiffs cannot appeal their own claims.) If you were at the trial, file for SC-140, Notice of Appeal. You must file within 30 days after the clerk hands or mails you the judge's decision (Judgment) on form SC-200 or form SC-130, Notice of Entry of Judgment. If you were not at the trial, fill out and file form SC-135Notice of Motion to Vacate Judgment and Declaration, to ask the judge to cancel the judgment (decision). If the judge does not give you a new trial, you have 10 days to appeal the decision. File

classifieds

form SC-140. For more information on appeals, see www.courts.ca.gov/small-claims/appeals. Do I have options? Yes. If you are being sued you can: Settle your case before the trial. If you and the plaintiff agree on how to settle the case before the trial, the plaintiff must file form CIV-110, Request for Dismissal, or a written and signed settlement agreement with the clerk. Ask the Small Claims Advisor for help. Prove this is the wrong court. Send a letter to the court before your trial explaining why you think this is the wrong court. Ask the court to dismiss the claim. You must serve (give) a copy of your letter (by mail or in person) to all parties. (Your letter to the court must say you have done so.) Go to trial and try to win your case. Bring witnesses, receipts, and any evidence you need to prove your case. To have the court order a witness to go to the trial, fill our form SC-107, Small Claims Subpoena and Declaration, and have it served on the witness. Sue the person who

is suing you. If you have a claim against the plaintiff, and the claim is appropriate for small claims court as described on this form, you may file Defendant's Claim (form SC-120) and bring the claim in this action. If your claim is for more than allowed in small claims court, you may still file it in small claims court if you give up the amount over the small claims value amount, or you may file a claim for the full value of the claim in the appropriate court. If your claim is for more than allowed in small claims court and relates to the same contract, transaction, matter or event that is the subject of the plaintiff's claim, you may file your claim in the appropriate court and file a motion to transfer the plaintiff's claim to the court to resolve both matters together. You can see a description of the amounts allowed in the paragraph above, titled "Small Claims Court." Agree with the plaintiff's claim and pay the money. Or, if you can't pay the money now, go to your trial and say you

want to make payments. Let the case "default" If you don't settle and do not go to the trial (default), the judge may give the plaintiff what he or she is asking for plus court costs. If this happens, the plaintiff can legally take your money, wages, and property to pay the judgment. What if I need more time? You can change the trial date if: You cannot go to court on the scheduled date (you will have to pay a fee to postpone the trial), or You did not get served (receive this order to go to court) at least 15 days before the trial (or 20 days if you live outside the county). Ask the Small Claims Clerk about the rules and fees for postponing a trial. Or fill our form SC-150 (or write a letter) and mail it to the court and to all other people listed on your court papers before the deadline. Enclose a check for your court fees, unless a fee waiver was granted. Need help? Your county's Small Claims Advisor can help for free, or go to www.courts.ca.gov/small-claims/advisor. Información para el

demandado (la persona demandada) La "Corte de reclamos menores" es una corte especial donde se deciden casos por \$12,500 o menos. Los individuos, o sea las "personas físicas" y los propietarios por cuenta propia, pueden reclamar hasta \$12,500. Las corporaciones, asociaciones, entidades públicas y otras empresas solo pueden reclamar hasta \$6,250. (Vea abajo para las excepciones.) El proceso es rápido y económico. Las reglas son sencillas e informales. Usted es el Demandado-la persona que se está demandando. La persona que lo está demandando es el Deandante. ¿Necesito un abogado? Puede hablar con un abogado antes o después del caso. Pero no puede tener a un abogado que lo represente ante la corte (a menos que se trate de una apelación de un caso de reclamos menores). ¿Cómo me preparo para ir a la corte? No tiene que presentar ningún documento antes del juicio, a menos que piense que ésta es la corte equivocada para su caso. Pero lleve al juicio cualquier testigos, recibos y pruebas que apoyan su caso. Y lea "Esté preparado para su juicio" en www.courts.ca.gov/reclamosmenores/preparesse. ¿Qué hago si necesito una modificación? Si tiene una discapacidad o tiene impedimentos de audición, llene el formulario MC-410, Solicitud de modificaciones para discapacidad. Entregue el formulario al secretario de la corte o al Coordinador de Acceso/ADA de su corte. ¿Qué pasa si no hablo bien inglés? Solicite un intérprete al secretario de la corte lo más pronto posible. Puede usar el formulario INT-300 o un formulario de su corte local. Si no está disponible un intérprete de la corte para su juicio, es posible que se tenga que cambiar la fecha de su juicio. No puede llevar su propio intérprete para el juicio a menos que el intérprete haya sido aprobado por la corte como un intérprete certificado, registrado, o provisionalmente calificado. (Vea la regla 2.893 de las Reglas de la Corte de California, y el formulario INT-140.) ¿Dónde puedo obtener los formularios de la corte que necesito? Vaya a cualquier edificio de la corte, la biblioteca legal de su condado, o imprima los formularios en www.courts.ca.gov/smallclaims/forms (página está en inglés). ¿Qué pasa en el juicio? El juez escuchará a ambas partes.

El juez puede tomar su decisión durante la audiencia o enviársela por correo después. ¿Qué pasa si pierdo el caso? Si pierde, puede apelar. Tendrá que pagar una cuota. (El Demandante no puede apelar su propio reclamo.) Si estuvo presente en el juicio, llene el formulario SC-140, Aviso de apelación (Notice of Appeal). Tiene que presentarlo dentro de 30 días después de que el secretario le entregue o envíe la decisión (fallo) del juez en el formulario SC-200 o SC-130, Aviso de publicación del fallo (Notice of Entry of Judgment). Si no estuvo en el juicio, llene y presente el formulario SC-135, Aviso de petición para anular el fallo y Declaración para pedirle al juez que anule el fallo (decisión). Si la corte no le otorga un nuevo juicio, tiene 10 días para apelar la decisión. Presente el formulario SC-140. Para obtener más información sobre las apelaciones, vea www.courts.ca.gov/reclamosmenores/apelaciones. ¿Tengo otras opciones? Si. Si lo están demandando, puede: Resolver su caso antes del juicio. Si usted y el Demandante se ponen de acuerdo en cómo resolver el caso antes del juicio, el Demandante tiene que presentar el formulario CIV-110 Solicitud de desestimación (Request for Dismissal) o un acuerdo de resolución escrito y firmado al secretario de la corte. Pídale al Asesor de Reclamos Menores que lo ayude. Probar que es la corte equivocada. Envíe una carta a la corte antes del juicio explicando por qué cree que es la corte equivocada. Pídale a la corte que despidan el reclamo. Tiene que entregar (dar) una copia de su carta (por correo o en persona) a todas las partes. (Su carta a la corte tiene que decir que hizo la entrega.) Ir al juicio y tratar de ganar el caso. Lleve testigos, recibos y cualquier prueba que necesite para probar su caso. Si desea que la corte emita una orden de comparecencia para que los testigos vayan al juicio, llene el formulario SC-107, Citatorio de reclamos menores (Small Claims Subpoena) y entrégueselo legalmente al Demandar a la persona que lo demandó. Si tiene un reclamo contra el Demandante, y el reclamo se puede presentar en la corte de reclamos menores, tal como se describe en este formulario, puede presentar el formulario SC-120, Reclamo del demandado (Defendant's

Claim) y presentarlo en este mismo caso. Si su reclamo excede el límite permitido en la corte de reclamos menores, puede igualmente presentarlo en la corte de reclamos menores si está dispuesto a limitar su reclamo al máximo permitido, o puede presentar un reclamo por el monto total en la corte apropiada. Si su reclamo excede el límite permitido en la corte de reclamos menores y está relacionado con el mismo contrato, transacción, asunto o acontecimiento que el reclamo del Demandante, puede presentar su reclamo en la corte apropiada y presentar una moción para transferir el reclamo del Demandante a dicha corte, para poder resolver los dos reclamos juntos. Puede ver una descripción de los montos permitidos en el párrafo anterior titulado "Corte de reclamos menores". Aceptar el reclamo del Demandante y pagar el dinero. O, si no puede pagar en ese momento, vaya al juicio y diga que quiere No ir al juicio y aceptar el fallo por falta de comparecencia. Si no llega a un acuerdo con el Demandante y no va al juicio (fallo por falta de comparecencia), el juez le puede otorgar al Demandante lo que está reclamando más los costos de la corte. En ese caso, el Demandante legalmente puede tomar su dinero, su sueldo o sus bienes para cobrar el fallo. ¿Qué hago si necesito más tiempo? Puede cambiar la fecha del No puede ir a la corte en la fecha programada (tendrá que pagar una cuota para aplazar el juicio), o No le entregaron los documentos legalmente (no recibió la orden para ir a la corte) por lo menos 15 días antes del juicio (ó 20 días si vive fuera del condado). Pregúntele al secretario de reclamos menores sobre las reglas y las cuotas para aplazar un juicio. O llene el formulario SC-150 (o escriba una carta) y envíelo antes del plazo a la corte y a todas las otras personas que figuran en sus papeles de la corte. Adjunte un cheque para pagar los costos de la corte, a menos que le hayan dado una exención. ¿Necesita ayuda? El Asesor de Reclamos Menores de su condado le puede ayudar sin cargo. O visite www.courts.ca.gov/reclamosmenores/asadores. First published on September 25th, 2025.

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SAVAGE Love

I'm a 40-year-old married man who has had one male lover (who is also 40 and married) since we met in college. We are not married to each other. We've both been married to women. We were best friends for several years before we had sex and began our sexual affair before we got married. Our wives and children are all friends, and we often take joint vacations together. In addition to having sex with our wives during these joint vacations, we also have sex with each other. Our wives and families are ignorant of this arrangement. We've only had gay sex with each other. We are in love with our wives, but we have admitted that we love each other more. While we have many more opportunities to have sex with our wives (all the time, at least in theory) we have sex with them one to two times a week. While we can't be alone overnight very often, we have sex five to six times when we do spend a night together. All the information I can find about bisexual men who are married to women and sexually active with other males focuses on "hook-ups" and never on a relationship like ours. I know that there are variations in everything, but have you ever come across men like us?
— Friends And Longtime Lovers

My first thought reading your letter: You should be less concerned about whether I've come across a relationship like yours, FALL, and more concerned about your wives or kids coming across the two of you fucking the shit out each other on one of your shared family vacations.

My second thought: This is a case for Dr. Joe Kort, the psychotherapist, sexologist and author who specializes in marital problems faced by couples in "mixed orientation" marriages.

"I am non-judgmental and can even be supportive of a situation where a man has another guy or guys on the side," Kort says. "However, I draw the line when the wife knows the other guy and the guy is in their friend group, as it is insensitive and unfair to the wife. Many people will feel it's unfair to the wife that her husband is with anyone else, but it is more problematic when the two guys are the kind of friends who vacation together with their families."

There is a name for the kind of relationship you describe: two married straight-identified/straight-perceived men who only have gay sex with each other are in a "closed loop." The term was popularized by swinging couples where the men were open to their wives about being bisexual, Kort explains, and

their wives consented to the arrangement, FALL, which doesn't describe your situation. (Also, if a "straight" married man is having sex with other men, it's important that he get the consent of his wife and take precautions to protect her sexual health. If the husband and wife are no longer intimate with each other, the man should be taking steps to protect his own sexual health and the health of his male partners, e.g., getting on PrEP, getting tested regularly, using condoms when appropriate, etc.)

Like me, Kort, who has written extensively about straight and/or straight-identified men who have sex with other men, is concerned about how this is going to play out when — not if — your wives find out.

"Given that they are doing this right under everyone's noses, discovery seems inevitable," Kort says. "And when they are discovered, the scale of this betrayal will make it very hard to recover from. The show Grace and Frankie made light of a similar situation — two old friends who were lovers leaving their wives

for each other — but once exposed these things rarely go the way it did on that sitcom, where everyone remained friends. A revelation like this devastates everyone — including the men involved. When this comes out, their relationships with their wives and kids will never be the same."

Maybe you and your male lover will continue to get away with it and your wife and kids will never discover that you've been something more than close friends for decades, FALL. But if you want to up the odds of getting away with this — if you wanna take his loads and your secret to the grave —you gotta stop fucking the shit out of each other while your wives and kids are sleeping in the next room.

Follow Dr. Kort on Instagram @DrJoeKort. To learn more about his books, his practice, and his podcast, go to www.joekort.com.

Got problems? Yes, you do! Email your question for the column to mailbox@savage.love! Or record your question for the Savage Lovecast at savage.love/askdan! Podcasts, columns and more at Savage.Love



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Jonesin' Crossword

BY MATT JONES

"Seasons Change"--yet it seems like yesterday.

Across

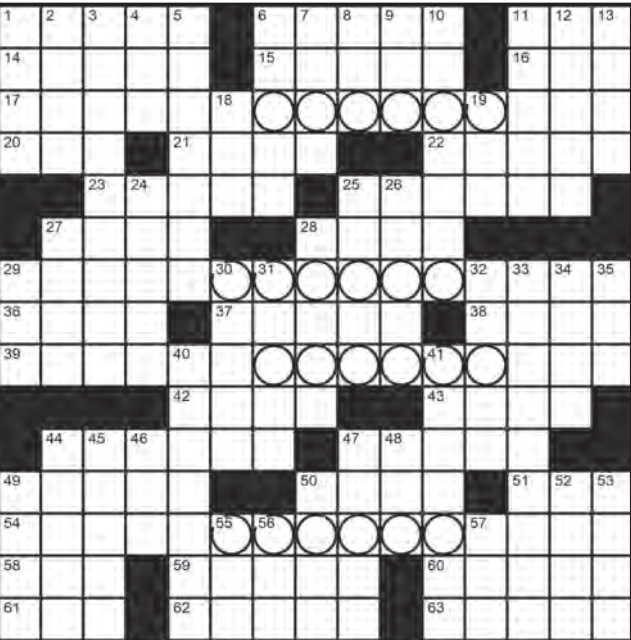
- Can't refuse
- Small change?
- Ride from the airport
- Colorado skiing town
- "It was ___ and stormy night"
- Swatch selection
- They encapsulate the story
- Duke U's conference
- Hit song of 1979
- Perspire
- Classic Jaguar model
- Finds loathsome
- Salt-N-Pepa, originally
- Potato, on Indian menus
- Kitchen utensils often linked in a group of 4-6
- 800, in Roman numerals
- Bony beginning

- Obey Bob Barker, in a way
- L.A. art gallery home to van Gogh's "Hospital at Saint-Rémy"
- Oboist's need
- Julep flavoring
- Burrowing rodent
- Dustup
- Chop into little bits
- Apple variety
- Wedding music providers, sometimes
- Baked breakfast item with a pair of main ingredients
- Snacked on
- About to blow
- Stash of treasure
- Alto instrument
- Yawning chasm
- Colts' fathers

Down

- Nelson Muntz catchphrase
- "Hey, wait ___!"
- Old U.S.-Soviet scientific rivalry
- "Chopped" host Allen
- Person who "can make the darkness bright," in a Platters hit
- The Robot, e.g.
- It's the thought that counts
- Yawning chasm
- Mess up
- Place to purchase boots and bindings
- Stadium sound
- Atmospheres
- Of the highest quality
- Mischievous sort
- Tango number
- NYU's ___ School of

- the Arts
- "Ragged Dick" author
- Horatio
- "___ Buddies" (Tom Hanks sitcom)
- Silicon Valley industry, briefly
- Added to the pot
- Santa Fe summer hrs.
- Mercutio's friend
- "In Britain, any degree of success ___ with envy and resentment": Christopher Lee
- "Grumpy Old Men" actor
- Davis
- Performed before
- Astro ender
- Prefix with metric or phonic
- Azerbaijan neighbor
- Bits of metal?
- Mazda model introduced in 1989
- Add, as territory
- Big initials in early TV
- Pairs up
- Shade-providing tree
- Business degrees
- Bravado
- Hipster's jargon, once
- "Donkey Kong Country" console
- Certain trader, casually
- No vote
- Part of WTF?



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FREE WILL Astrology WEEK OF SEPT. 25

BY ROB BREZSNY

ARIES (March 21-April 19): In Tonglen, a Tibetan Buddhist meditation, you visualize yourself breathing in the suffering, pain or negativity of other people, then imagine breathing out relief, healing or compassion toward them. The practice can also be done on your own behalf. The goal is to transform tension and stress into courage, vitality, and healing. I recommend this practice, Aries. Can you turn your scars into interesting tattoos? Can you find mysterious opportunities lurking in the dilemmas? Can you provide grace for others as you feed your own fire?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): In a YouTube video, I watched Korean artisans make *hanji* paper in the same way their predecessors have for 1,300 years. It was complicated and meditative. They peeled off the inner bark of mulberry trees, then soaked it, cooked it, and pounded it into pulp. After mixing the mash with the aibika plant, they spread it out on screens and let it dry. I learned that this gorgeous, luminous paper can endure for a thousand years. I hope you draw inspiration from this process, Taurus. Experiment with softening what has felt unyielding. Treat what's tough or inflexible with steady, artful effort. Be imaginative and persistent as you shape raw materials into beautiful things you can use for a long time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Legendary jazz musician Sun Ra was a Gemini who claimed to be from the planet Saturn. He aspired to live in a state of "cosmic discipline" — not just in his musical training but in his devotion to self-improvement, aesthetic exploration and a connection to transcendent realities. He fused outrageous style with sacred order, chaos with clarity. I invite you to draw inspiration from him. Put your personal flair in service to noble ideas. Align your exuberant self-expression with your higher purpose. Show off if it helps wake people up.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): In Inuit tradition, *qarrtsiluni* means "waiting in the darkness for something to burst forth." It refers to the sacred pause before creativity erupts, before the quest begins, before the light returns. This is an apt description of your current state, Cancerian. Tend your inner stillness like a fire about to ignite. Don't rush it. Honor the hush. The energies you store up will find their proper shape in a few weeks. Trust that the silence is not absence but incubation. Luminosity will bloom from this pregnant pause.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You're feeling the stirrings of a desire that's at least half-wild. A surprising vision or opportunity has begun to roar softly within you. But here's key advice: Don't chase it recklessly. Practice strategic boldness. Choose where and how you shine. Your radiance is potent, but it will be most effective when offered deliberately, with conscious artistry. You're being asked to embody the kind of leadership that inspires, not dominates. Be the sun that warms but doesn't scorch! PS: People are observing you to learn how to shine.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If humans ever perfect time-travel, I'm going to the Library of Alexandria in ancient Egypt. It was crammed with papyrus scrolls by authors from all over the world. It was also a gathering point for smart people who loved to compare notes across disciplines. Poets argued amiably with mathematicians. Astronomers discussed inspirations with physicians. Breakthroughs flowed freely because ideas were allowed to migrate, hybridize and be challenged without rancor. Consider emulating that rich mélange, Virgo. Convene unlike minds, cross-pollinate and entertain unprecedented questions. The influences you need next will arrive via unexpected connections.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The ancient Mesopotamians believed each person had a personal god called an *ilu* who acted as a protector, guide and intercessor with the greater gods. You're in a phase when your own *ilu* is extra active and ready to undergo an evolutionary transformation. So assume that you will be able to call on potent help, Libra. Be alert for how your instincts and intuitions are becoming more acute and specific. If you feel an odd nudge or a dream insists on being remembered, take it seriously. You're being steered toward deeper nourishment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In Venice, Italy, floods periodically damage books at libraries and bookstores. Trained volunteers restore them with meticulous, hands-on methods. They use absorbent paper and towels to separate and dry the pages, working page by page. I offer this vignette as a useful metaphor, Scorpio. Why? Because I suspect that a rich part of your story needs repair. It's at risk of becoming irrelevant, even irretrievable. Your assignment is to nurse it back to full health and coherence. Give it your tender attention as you rehabilitate its meaning. Rediscover and revive its lessons and wisdom.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In classical Indian music, a raga is not a fixed composition but a flexible framework. It's defined by a specific scale, characteristic melodic phrases, and a traditional time of day for performance. Musicians improvise and express emotion within that expansive set of constraints. Unlike Western compositions, which are written out and repeated verbatim, a raga has different notes each time it's played. I think this beautiful art form can be inspirational for you, Sagittarius. Choose the right time and tone for what you're creating. Dedicate yourself to a high-minded intention and then play around with flair and delight. Define three non-negotiable elements and let everything else breathe.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In medieval European monasteries, scribes left blank pages in certain texts. This was not done by accident, but to allow for future revelations. Later readers and scribes might fill these spaces with additional text, marginalia and personal notes. Books were seen as living documents. I recommend a metaphorical version of this practice to you, Capricorn. You will thrive by keeping spaces empty and allowing for the unknown to ripen. You may sometimes feel an urge to define, control, and fortify, but acting on that impulse could interfere with the gifts that life wants to bring you. Honor what is as-yet unwritten.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In West African Vodún cosmology, the deity named Lègba guards the crossroads. He is the mediator and gatekeeper between the human world and spirit realm. He speaks all languages and serves as the first point of contact for communication with other spirits. In the weeks ahead, Aquarius, you may find yourself in Lègba's domain: between past and future, fact and fantasy, solitude and communion. You may also become a channel for others, intuiting or translating what they can't articulate. I won't be surprised if you know things your rational mind doesn't fully understand. I bet a long-locked door will swing open and a long-denied connection will finally coalesce. You're not just passing through the crossroads. You *are* the crossroads.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In 1977, NASA launched two Voyager spacecraft into the abyss. Both carried a message in the form of a golden record to any extraterrestrial who might find it. There were greetings in 55 languages, natural sounds like whale songs and thunderstorms, music by Chuck Berry and others, plus over 100 images and diagrams explaining how to find Earth. It was science as a love letter, realism with a dash of audacity. I invite you to craft your own version of a golden record, Pisces. Distill a message that says who you are and what you are seeking: clear enough to be decoded by strangers, warm enough to be welcomed by friends you haven't met. Put it where the desired audience can hear it: portfolio, outreach note, manifesto, demo. Send signals that will make the right replies inevitable.

Homework: You know that insult you fling at yourself? Stop flinging it! Newsletter.FreeWillAstrology.com

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Jana Rygas

1954 – 2025

Jana was a rock for me in a turbulent campaign that nearly broke me. She was there for me countless times, with humor, sympathy and practical solutions. I don't know what I would have done without her. — Dawn Leslie, Lane County Commission candidate

Jana was smart, funny, engaging, passionate and practical. She encouraged me to run for mayor in 2015, guided my early exploration for the campaign, and supported and advised me throughout my two terms. I am grateful beyond measure to have known her and am heartbroken to lose her.

— Lucy Vinis, former Eugene mayor

Jana was my friend. I would call her to talk through my hairbrained political schemes. She would laugh, call me a psychopath and then go through the problem point by point in a way no one else could because of her incredible intellect and analytical abilities. She made me better and made our communities better because of her constant north star of social and environmental justice seen through the lens of a working-class person. She cared about the people who didn't have a voice and she quietly and tirelessly gave them that voice without ever wasting a breath for herself. The one thing she couldn't do was see how damn special she was. Jana was my friend and I miss her.

— Val Hoyle,
U.S. House of
Representatives

Jana had to build my first campaign from the ground up. She balanced me well and was one of the most dependable people I know. Campaigns create a lot of pressure, and she helped me withstand that and, like a good manager, took care of the details. We grew very close. I am very thankful for her. We shared the most basic tenet of friendship: humor. We could laugh at all the frustrating things.

— Kitty Piercy,
former Eugene mayor

Anywhere you go at our house there are reminders of Jana. In the barn, in my workshop, in my studio and in the kitchen there is at least one gift and often several from Jana. When my wife Duane started Downtown Languages, Jana researched information and advised on running an effective nonprofit. When she came to Eugene and spent the night with us, we'd stay up way too late talking about everything and solving nothing. We'll miss her in our lives. Goodbye, sweet friend.

— Dave Funk



Once we ended up sitting in one of our cars after an event talking and sometimes crying together. The first social event I went to after my husband died was at Jana's house. She walked me around the block when I became overwhelmed. Thanks for being such a tender friend, Jana.

— Cheryl Crumbley

When I was president of Eugene Fire Local 851 union, we endorsed Kitty Piercy for Mayor of Eugene. Jana was Kitty's campaign manager and she and I became good friends. Jana was very politically savvy, funny and loved to dance. She will be dearly missed.

— Gary Nauta

Jana Rygas was a well-established political workhorse when I entered the Eugene political scene in 1998, but she always had time for newcomers. Her legacy, including getting a slew of progressive City Council members, a handful of mayors elected and some important ballot measures passed leaves a lasting impact. I am proud to call her a friend and humbled that she thought of me as one, too. She made an impact.

— James Mattiace

It felt like everyone in town wanted her involved in whatever projects they were working on, and she was one of those rare people who was happy to give her intellect, wisdom and experience, and was very unassuming about it.

— Jared Mason Gere

Jana was the political whiz kid for countless progressive campaigns — always with an eye toward social justice. She was a great human, too — generous, funny, smart. I will miss her.

— Sonja Ungemach,
founder of Eugene Weekly

Jana responded enthusiastically whenever her friends requested help. She jumped right in, intuited what needed to happen, and got things done without desiring credit or reciprocation. She had a profoundly positive impact on our lives and the world, and she'll be deeply missed.

— Paul Heimowitz and Jan Wilson

Jana had a knack for recognizing the potential in people. Years ago, when I started a little blog for friends, Jana called it Kulture Kolumn. KK became my alter ego and an inside joke with its own lingo. Today, I continue to publish, asking WWJD: What would Jana do? I miss her curiosity, insights and mirth.

— Rob Zako, Better Eugene Springfield Transportation

Jana always had such a fun sense of humor and an easy laugh. She was a contra dancer and caller, and was always encouraging of new dancers, helping the new folks laugh their way through while they were learning the dances. She even started a back yard monthly gathering to bring together musicians and dancers so everyone could practice the dances ahead of time. We'll miss her.

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